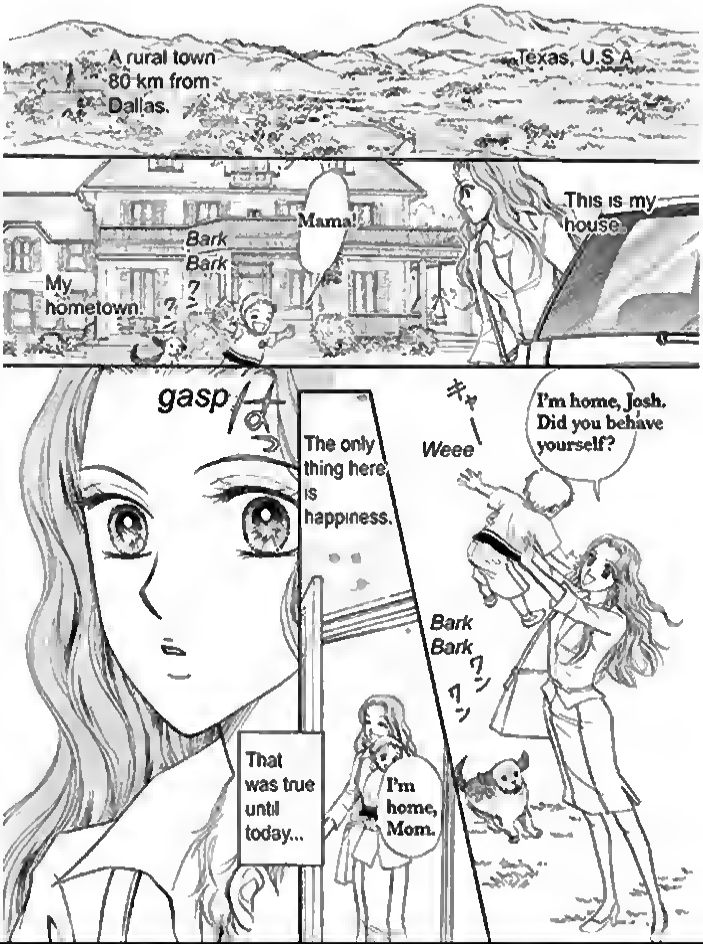
Pure Romance

HARLEQUIN

The Prince's Heir

Original Text by Sally Carleen

Miho Tomoi


A rural town 80 km from Dallas.
Texas, U.S.A.
My hometown.
Bark
Bark
Mama!
This is my house.
gasp
The only thing here is happiness.
That was true until today...
I'm home, Mom.
キャー
Weee
I'm home, Josh. Did you behave yourself?
Bark
Bark
ワン
ワン

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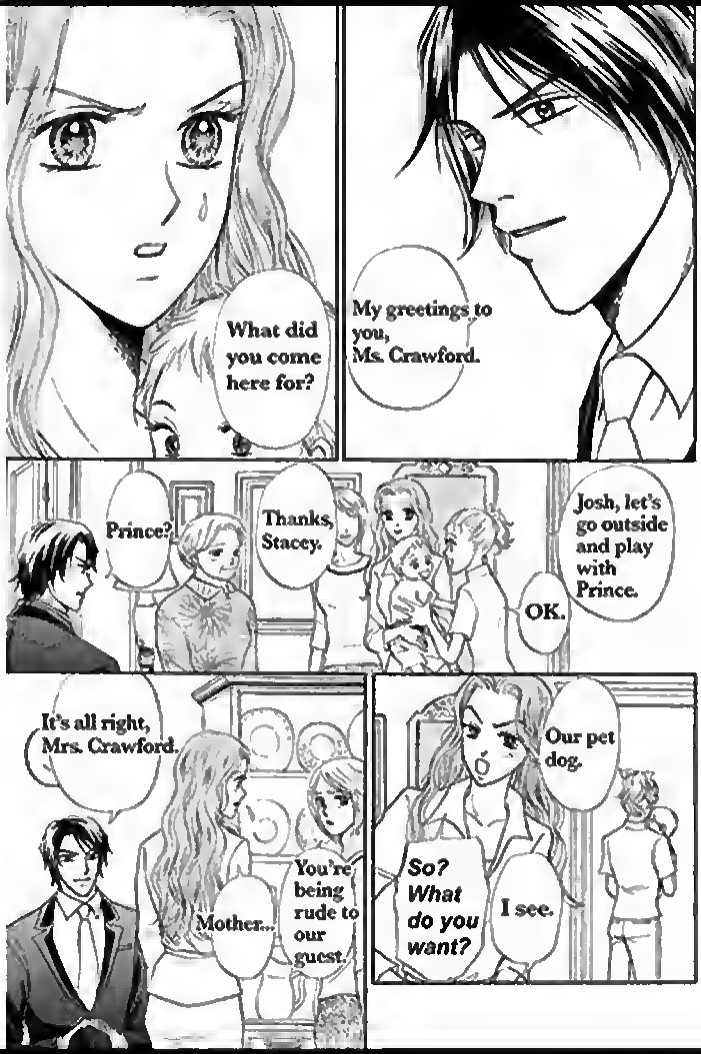
When a sudden visitor appeared.

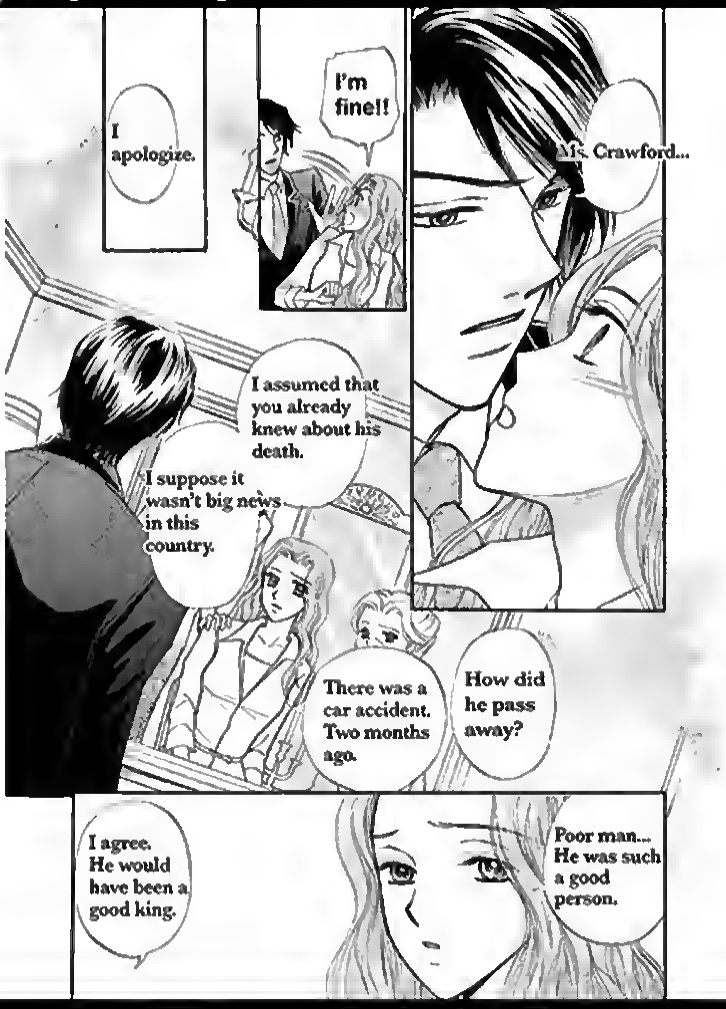
Who is he?
What!?
Mandy, this is Mr. Stephan Reynard.
The prince of the kingdom of Castile!!
Stephan Reynard.
The younger brother of Lawrence Reynard, Josh's father.
The uncle of my adopted son, Josh.
But he looks much colder than Lawrence.


What did you come here for?
My greetings to you, Ms. Crawford.
Prince?
Thanks, Stacey.
Josh, let's go outside and play with Prince.
OK.
It's all right, Mrs. Crawford.
Mother...
You're being rude to our guest.
So? What do you want?
I see.
Our pet dog.

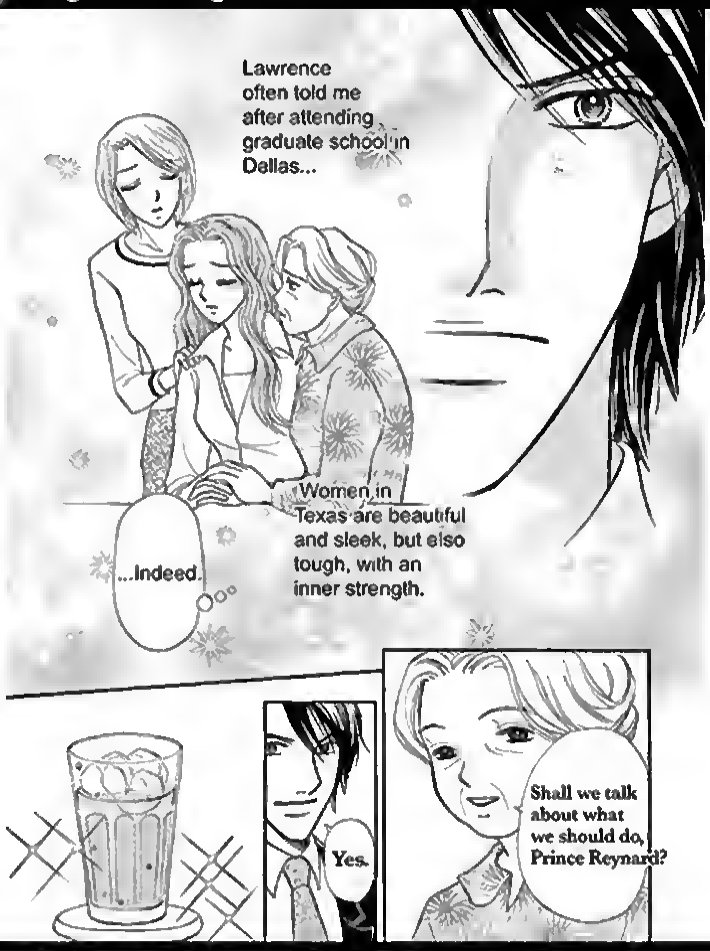
The purpose of my visit is not just to pay my respects.
I thought so. Take a seat, Mother.
I'll stand. It would be rude to sit in front of a member of the royal family.

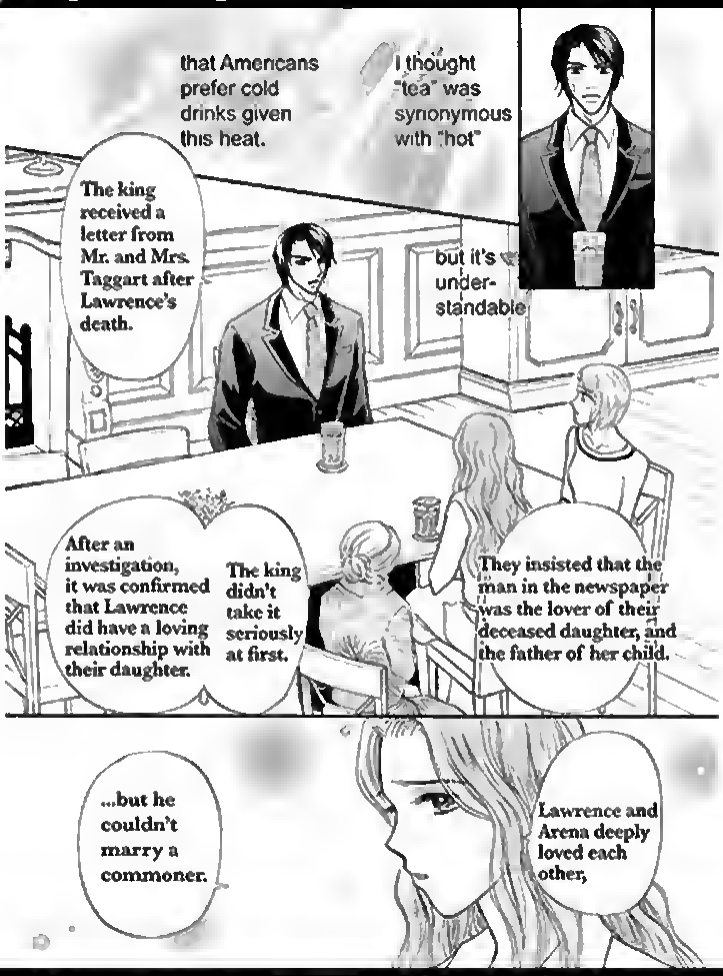
Heir, did he say!?
No, the adoption was perfect.
Josh is my child!!
Heir?
I don't see why you should be so formal.
You were cradling the heir to the throne of my country just a moment ago.
Why is Josh the heir?
Lawrence returned to your country after, Josh's mother, Arena, passed away. He also married Lady Barbara.
She's the one who would give birth to an heir.

Faint
เวิ้ง
What the...
Lawrence is dead?
It seems like you were not told about Lawrence's death.
Are you all right?

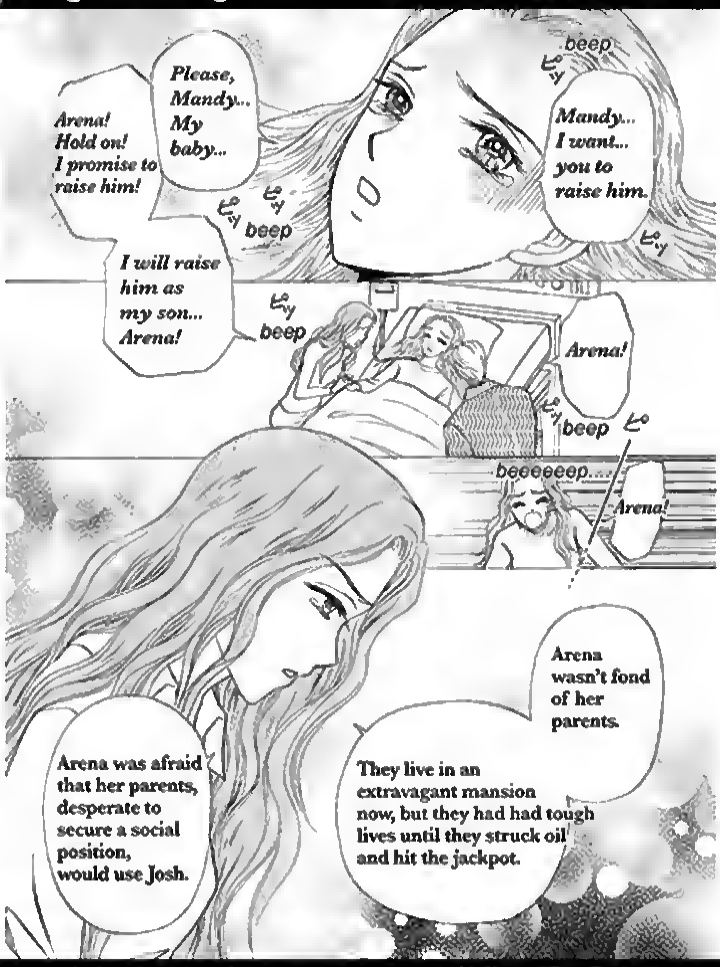

I apologize.
I'm fine!!
Ms. Crawford...
I assumed that you already knew about his death.
I suppose it wasn't big news in this country.
There was a car accident. Two months ago.
How did he pass away?
I agree. He would have been a good king.
Poor man... He was such a good person.

He wasn't the one who told us.
I can't believe Lawrence would have told the royal family about Josh.
He tried so hard to keep him a secret.
But now he's gone.
So you came to take his son instead?
Arena's parents!?
Mr. and Mrs. Taggart read about Lawrence's death during their vacation in Europe and called me.
Mandy.
They thought they could use it to their advantage!
Ah! Those two would. Realizing that the illegitimate child's father was a crown prince...


Lawrence often told me after attending graduate school in Dallas...
Women in Texas are beautiful and sleek, but also tough, with an inner strength.
...Indeed.
Yes.
Shall we talk about what we should do, Prince Reynard?


that Americans prefer cold drinks given this heat.
I thought "tea" was synonymous with "hot"
but it's understandable
The king received a letter from Mr. and Mrs. Taggart after Lawrence's death.
After an investigation, it was confirmed that Lawrence did have a loving relationship with their daughter.
The king didn't take it seriously at first.
They insisted that the man in the newspaper was the lover of their deceased daughter, and the father of her child.
...but he couldn't marry a commoner.
Lawrence and Arena deeply loved each other,

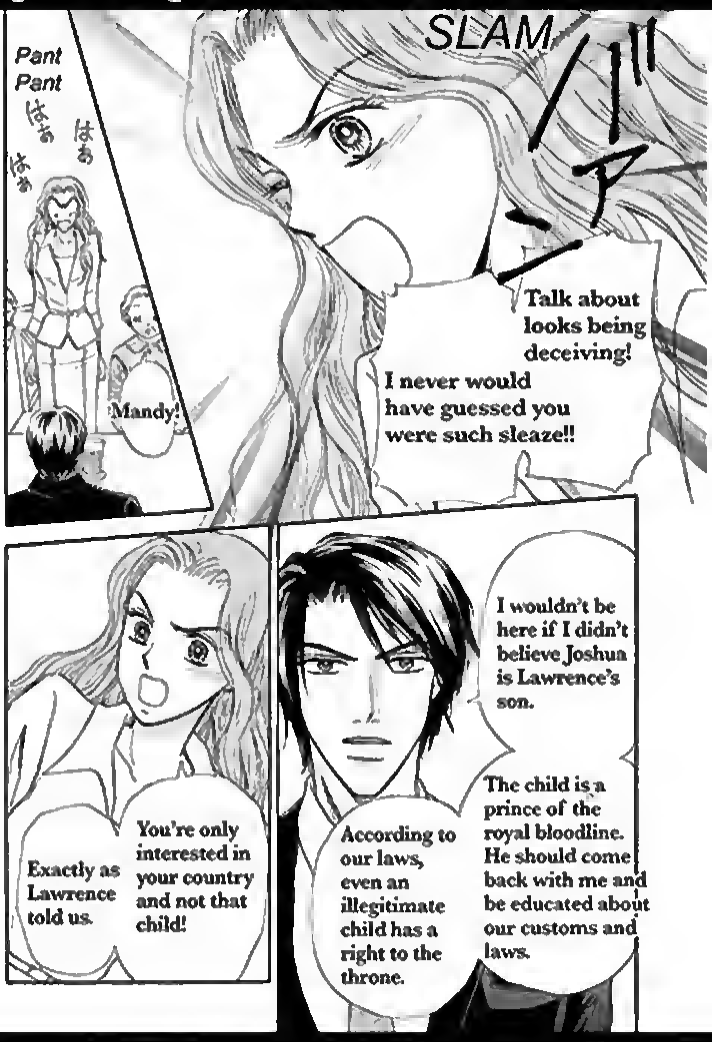
Lawrence was the heir to the throne.
Then you also heard that Arena lost her life during the difficult delivery?
I know! Arena told me.
She told me that she wanted me to raise her baby.
Lawrence and her parents were all there. They should know about this.
Mandy, listen.
Don't hand my baby over to my parents.
Or to Castile, either.
Lawrence told me... the royal family is cold, like a prison.


Please, Mandy... My baby...
Arena! Hold on! I promise to raise him!
beep
beep
Mandy... I want... you to raise him.
beep
I will raise him as my son... Arena!
beep
Arena!
beep
beeeeeep....
Arena!
Arena was afraid that her parents, desperate to secure a social position, would use Josh.
Arena wasn't fond of her parents.
They live in an extravagant mansion now, but they had had tough lives until they struck oil and hit the jackpot.

But Lawrence didn't sign that document.
I'm the one with the right of custody.
The Taggarts were eager to sign the adoption documents, without knowing that Lawrence was a crown prince.
Lawrence felt the same way.
True.
The both agreed not to.
Arena didn't fill in the father's name on the birth certificate.

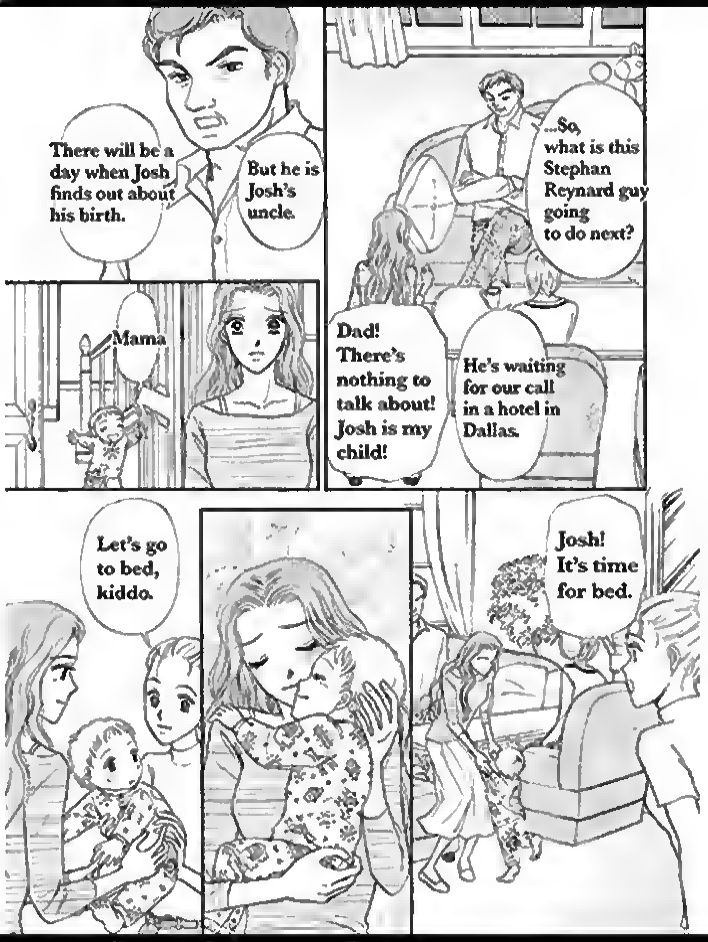
The royal family might give Josh a ride in a limousine or employ a personal tutor for him, but what your brother and Arena wanted was love!
The love that wasn't given to them by their parents, despite their hopes!
To ensure that Josh won't be taken away to Castile and spend a life similar to that of Lawrence.
...If
Joshua is the true son of Lawrence...

Clatter
Bad girl!
I'm sorry, Grandma.
Mandy!
What are you hinting at!?
If you're implying he isn't Lawrence's son...
If you're suspicious, please return to your palace on the next available flight.
We commoners will make do somehow. Don't y'all worry about us.
...I believe a DNA test will make things clear.


SLAM
Pant
Pant
はあ
はあ
Mandy!
Talk about looks being deceiving!
I never would have guessed you were such sleaze!!
You're only interested in your country and not that child!
Exactly as Lawrence told us.
I wouldn't be here if I didn't believe Joshua is Lawrence's son.
The child is a prince of the royal bloodline. He should come back with me and be educated about our customs and laws.
According to our laws, even an illegitimate child has a right to the throne.

Yank
He didn't want to take his beloved son back to your country because of people like you.
He didn't want Josh to be all alone and miserable!
Hurry home so that you can be the one to inherit the crown.
Make your own child coldhearted and emotionless,
and let that child follow the royal traditions.
Don't even think...
About trying to take Josh away!

SLAM
バタン
Prince Reynard.
Would you like another glass of iced tea?
No, thank you.
……
This is the phone number of the hotel where I am staying.
I would be obliged if you could give me a call once she settles down.
Of course.


There will be a day when Josh finds out about his birth.
But he is Josh's uncle.
...So, what is this Stephan Reynard guy going to do next?
Mama
Dad! There's nothing to talk about! Josh is my child!
He's waiting for our call in a hotel in Dallas.
Let's go to bed, kiddo.
Josh! It's time for bed.

He doesn't understand how much he is loved.

That child only knows of being loved.

Like myself in the old days.

I was told that Arena had always been jealous about my family.

Yet... When we became true friends after going to college in Dallas,

How much my family meant to me.

I also realized it when I left home.

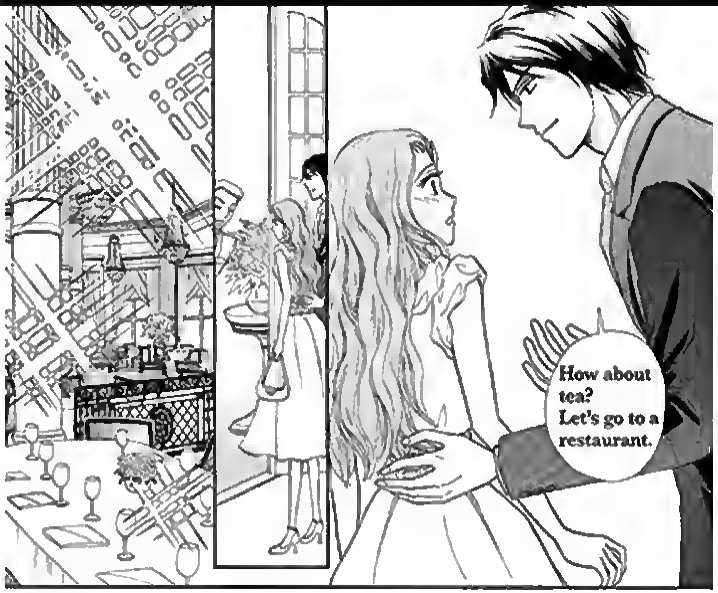
She had toys, clothes, her own room.

When I was young, I was jealous of Arena.

It's the love of family that matters the most.
It's not money or goods.
It became painfully clear when Grandpa passed away.
That's why... when Arena died and Lawrence entrusted her tiny baby into my arms,
I decided to bring him up here.
You're right about that.
Huh!?
I have an idea! Why not have him stay at our house?

I absolutely disagree!
Good idea. He won't possibly think of taking Josh away if he sees how happy Josh is living here.
No way!
Yes, that seems like the best idea.
Sleeping under the same roof as him!?
You're outvoted, darlin'.
Seriously!?

Now I'm here... But there's nothing to worry about. He would never agree to stay at our house.
I'm honored to be able to see you again.
Ms. Crawford.
Swish
chuckles
Oh, never mind.
Only a minute.
...You're late!


How about tea? Let's go to a restaurant.

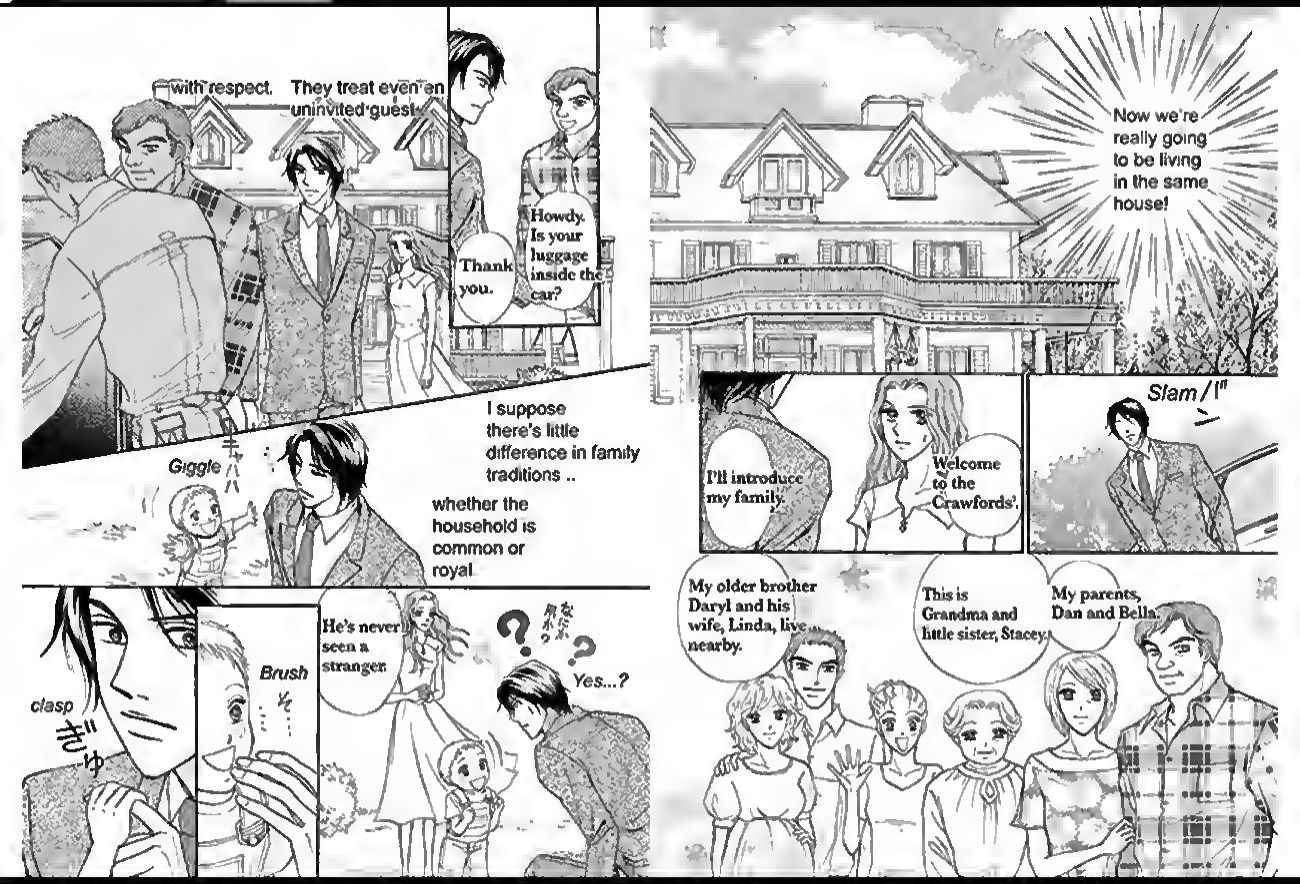
Having him at our house will be too awkward.
This kind of a place is what suits him.

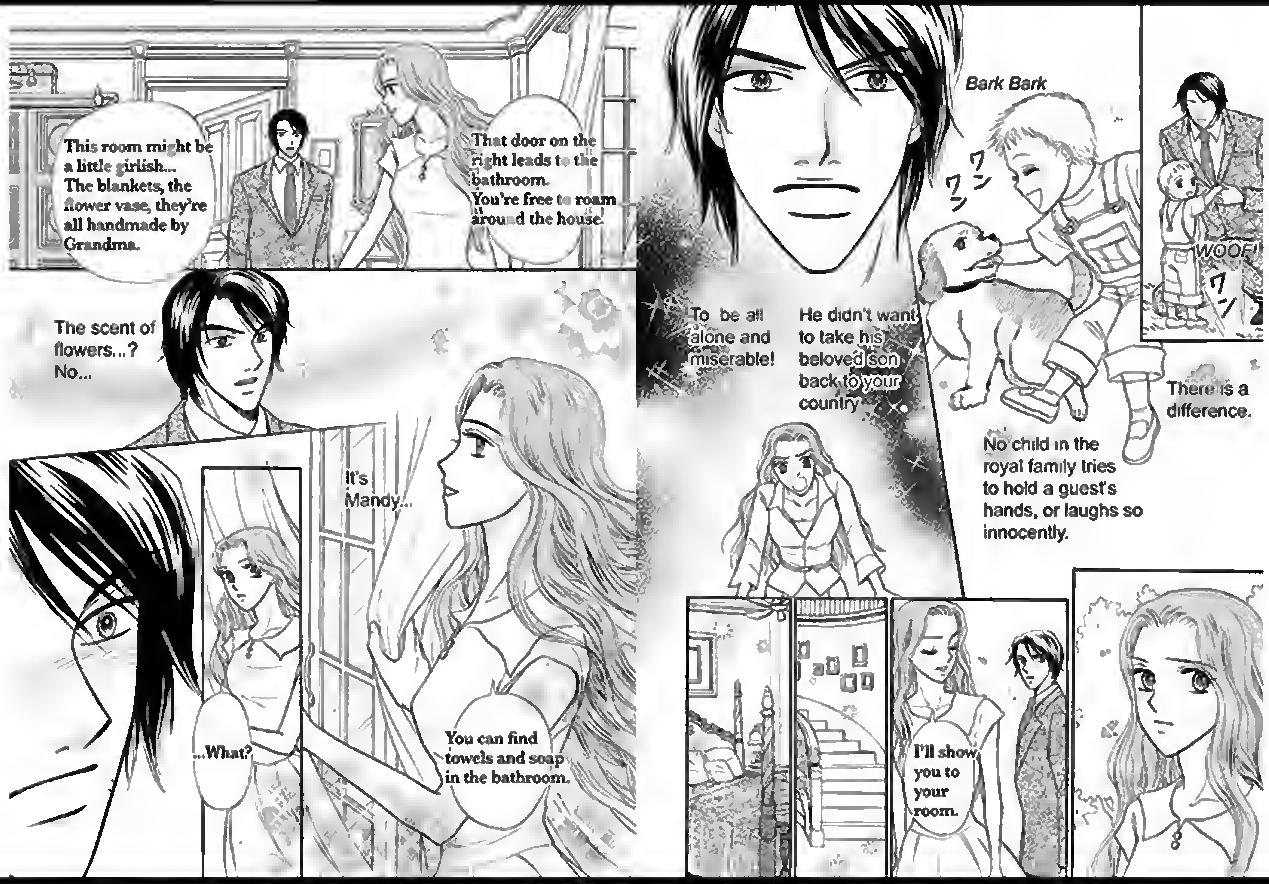
I'll bet he sleeps naked.
No, that's not true.
I wonder if he's like this when he goes to sleep.
gasp
はっ
?
Stephan is fine.
Well, Mr. Reynard, or shall I call you "Your Highness"?
glare
What am I thinking?
!

Who will succeed the throne?
If Lawrence's son doesn't succeed...
Do your parents also want to see their grandchild?
Of course. The king and queen wish to see Lawrence's son.
You mean their successor, right? If not Josh...
Don't call him that!
He's not "Lawrence's son."
He has a name, Joshua.
He's a human being, Stephan.

Then you can become the king!
If Joshua won't return to Castile, I will be succeeding the throne.
...You are right.
The problem is who the rightful heir to the throne is.

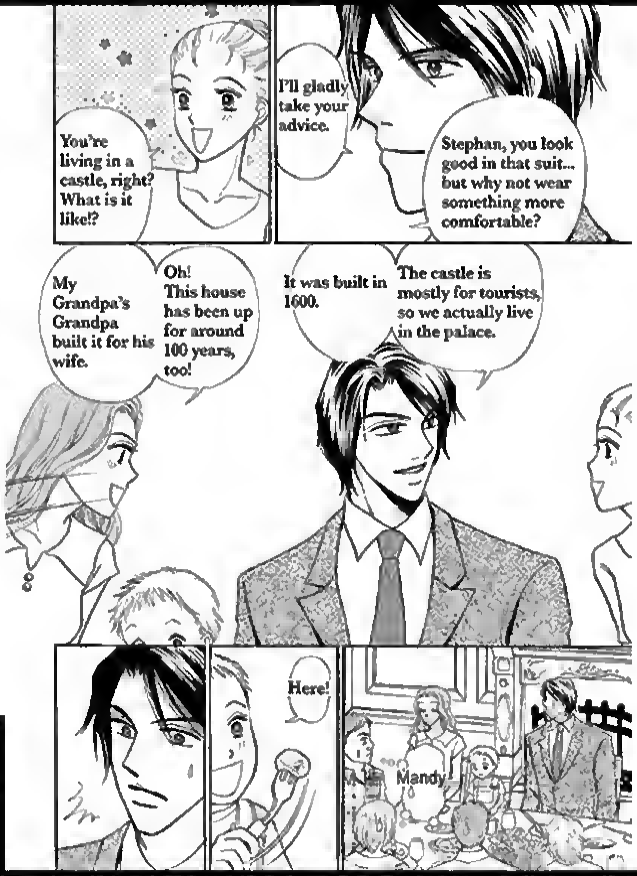
Mom should be preparing the guest room as we speak. You'll stay at my house, and learn more about your nephew.
You'll come stay at our house.
What?
Your... house?
Yes. you can make your decision after that...
Uh...
Oh, no...
I will accept your hospitality for about two weeks.
Very well. I will check out as early as tonight.
Just look at how he's reacting!
Hurry up and refuse!
Don't worry. I'm not going to.
That boy is my son! I'm not letting anyone take him away!
Splitting him in half? He won't grow used to either place.
What if he travels back and forth until he reaches maturity?
My mind has changed after meeting your family yesterday.
...Do you have a better idea?


with respect. They treat even an uninvited guest
Thank you.
Howdy. Is your luggage inside the car?
I suppose there's little difference in family traditions .. whether the household is common or royal
Giggle
Now we're really going to be living in the same house!
I'll introduce my family.
Welcome to the Crawfords'.
Slam / I"
My older brother Daryl and his wife, Linda, live nearby.
This is Grandma and little sister, Stacey.
My parents, Dan and Bella.
clasp
Brush
He's never seen a stranger.
Yes...?


This room might be a little girlish... The blankets, the flower vase, they're all handmade by Grandma.
That door on the right leads to the bathroom. You're free to roam around the house.
The scent of flowers...? No...
It's Mandy...
...What?
You can find towels and soap in the bathroom.
To be all alone and miserable!
He didn't want to take his beloved son back to your country.
Bark Bark
ワン ワン
WOOF!
ワン
There is a difference.
No child in the royal family tries to hold a guest's hands, or laughs so innocently.
I'll show you to your room.

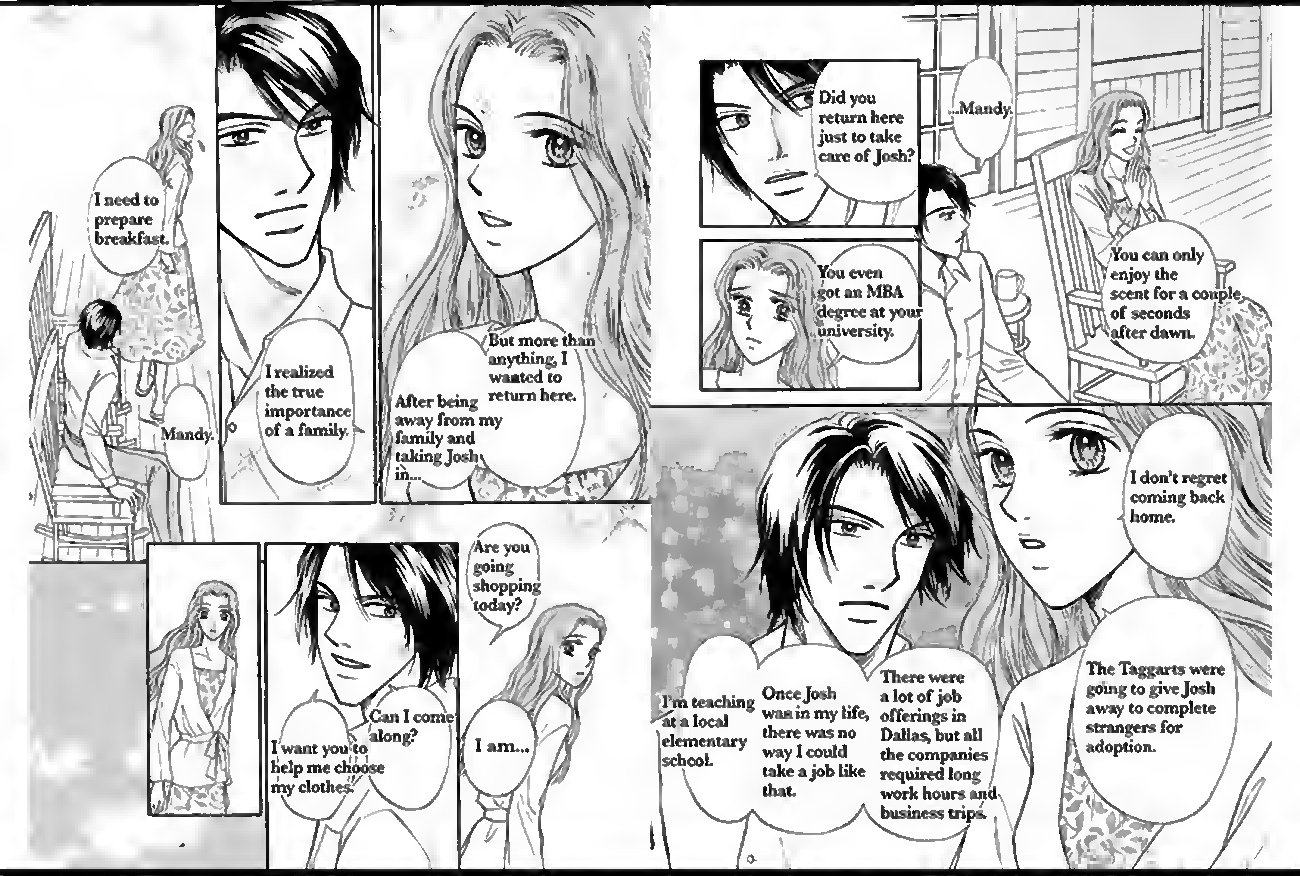
Supper is at seven.
?
Nothing. Thank you.
I'm glad I've been trained to hide my emotions.
I'm here as a result...
No matter how enticing Mandy might be
I cannot repeat Lawrence's mistakes!
...of Lawrence's indiscreet behavior...
You serve yourself here. The maid is off duty today.
Mandy!
We aren't so formal here.
We're free to wear whatever we want.
It's Sunday, so the ladies are wearing skirts and the fellas are wearing slacks.
but usually we all wear shorts.

Hide
Josh! Stephan has his own food.
Noooo!
See! I ate it all!
Here!
あはは
HAHAHAHA
Ha Ha Ha
Giggle
きゃは

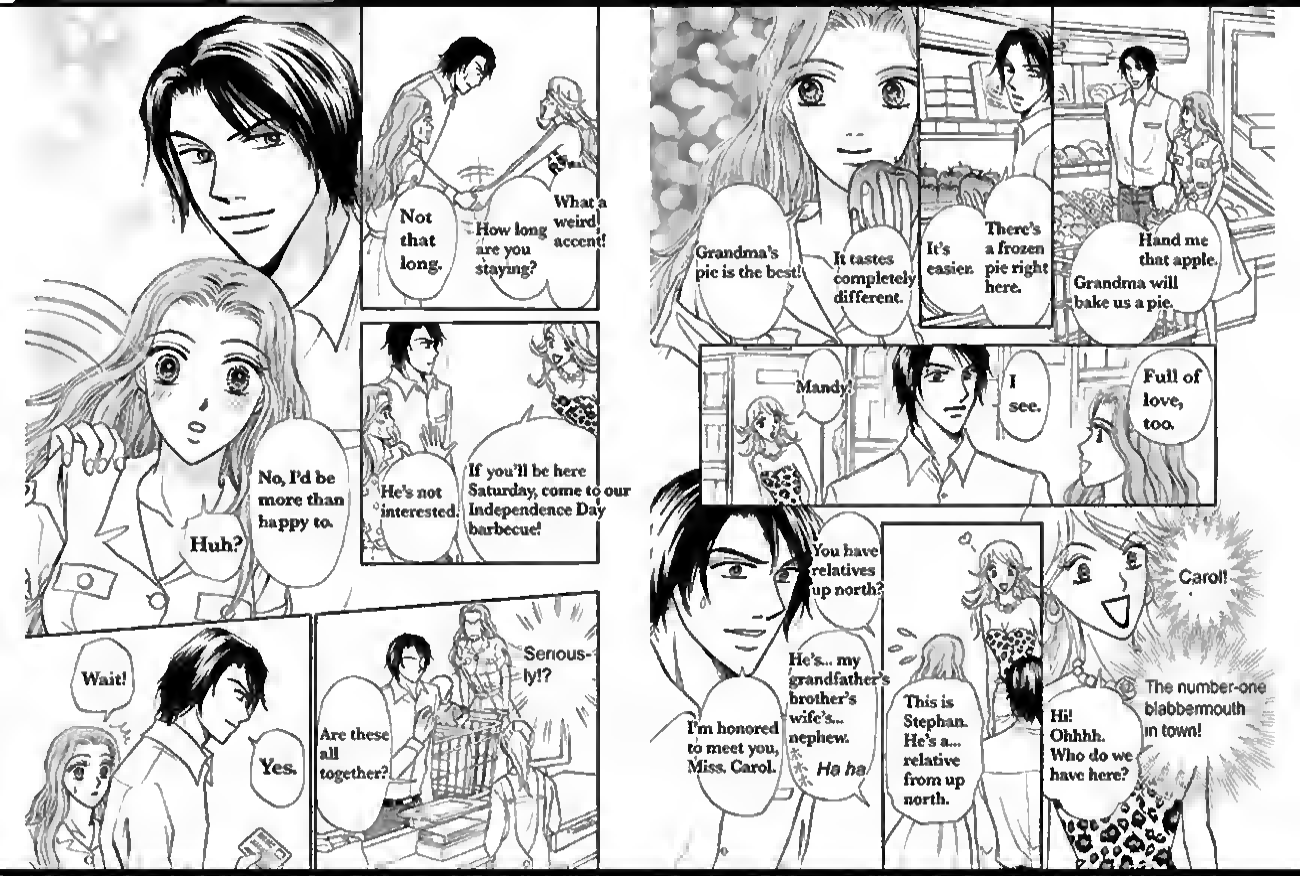

You're living in a castle, right? What is it like!?
I'll gladly take your advice.
Stephan, you look good in that suit... but why not wear something more comfortable?
My Grandpa's Grandpa built it for his wife.
Oh! This house has been up for around 100 years, too!
It was built in 1600.
The castle is mostly for tourists, so we actually live in the palace.
Here!
Mandy

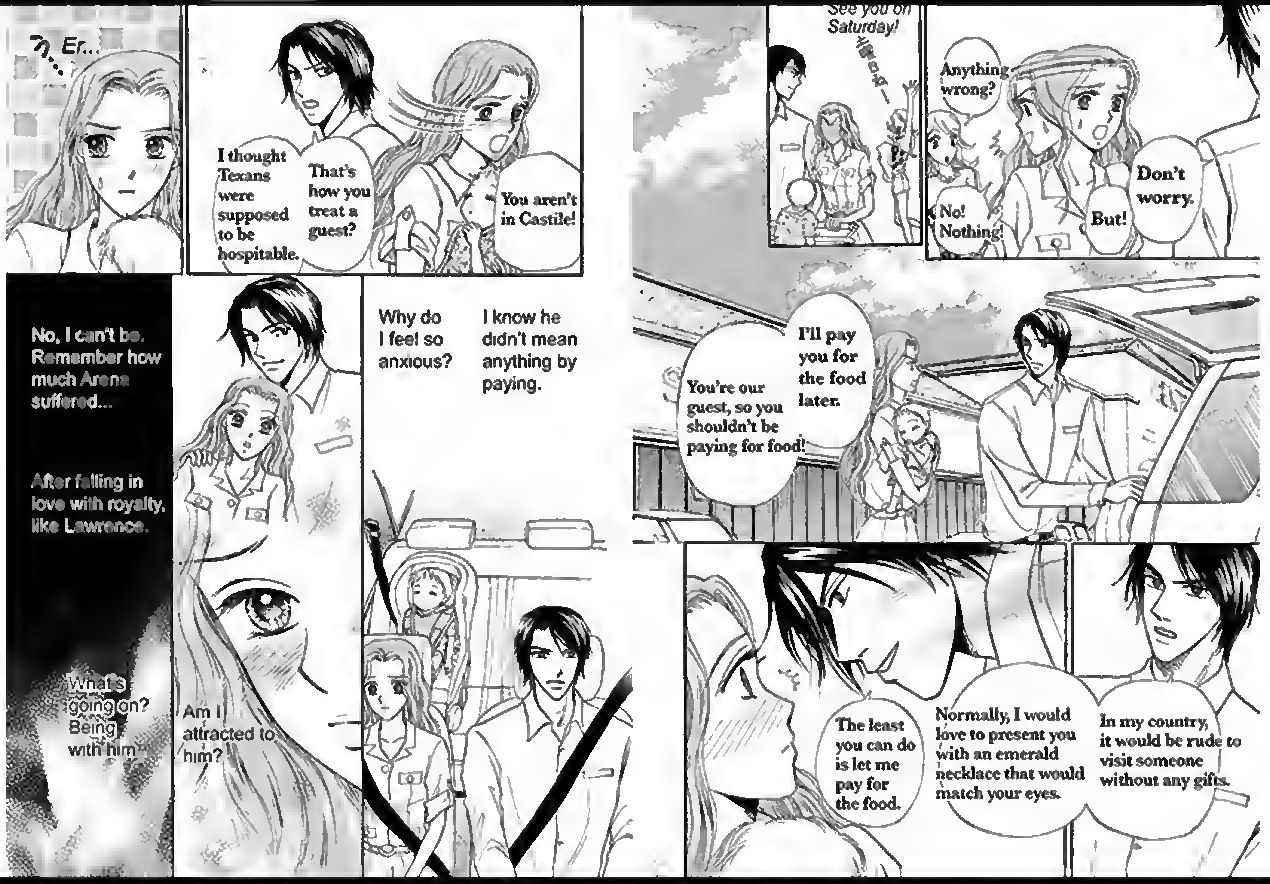
Good morning.
Stephan!
Jump
Clank
Grandma?
Totally!
And he's really cute!
I agree. He's a polite young man.
I don't see anything to worry about.
He's trying to take Josh away!
I want to see him dancing at a ball.
Though...
He doesn't seem as cold as I thought he was at first...
Jeez! Everyone is siding with him...!
He wouldn't do that. We should let Josh decide for himself when he grows up.

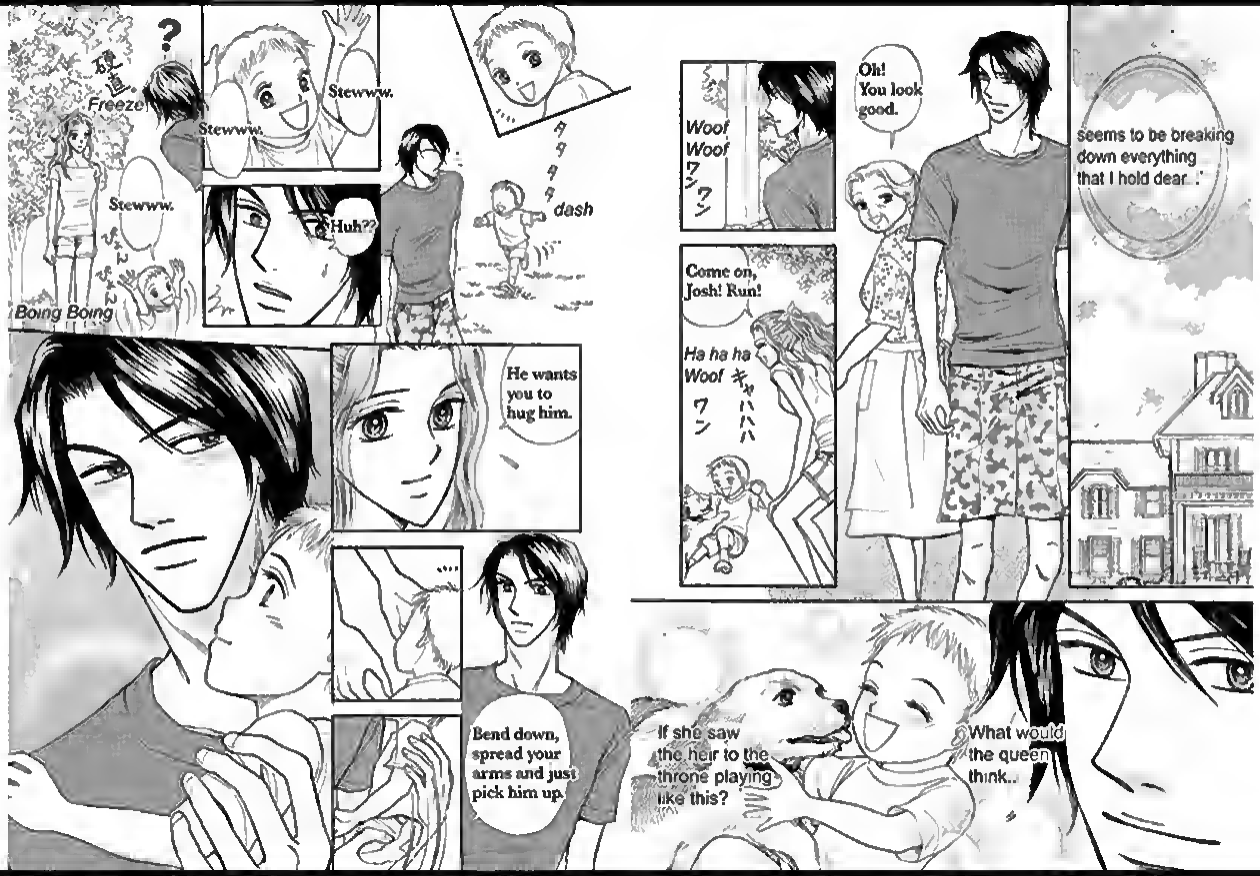
The sun is bringing back the scent of all the countries it passed over during the night.
The air is full of so many scents. It's as if...
Go ahead.
This is my favorite time of the day.
May I join you?
You can sense it, too? I thought Grandma and I were the only ones.
Yes, I can. But it's gone now.
Spectacular.


I need to prepare breakfast.
Mandy.
I realized the true importance of a family.
After being away from my family and taking Josh in...
But more than anything, I wanted to return here.
Did you return here just to take care of Josh?
You even got an MBA degree at your university.
...Mandy.
You can only enjoy the scent for a couple of seconds after dawn.
I don't regret coming back home.
I'm teaching at a local elementary school.
Once Josh was in my life, there was no way I could take a job like that.
There were a lot of job offerings in Dallas, but all the companies required long work hours and business trips.
The Taggarts were going to give Josh away to complete strangers for adoption.
Are you going shopping today?
I am...
Can I come along?
I want you to help me choose my clothes.

じろっ
glare
Huh?
How many're you trying on, there, cowboy?
You're probably a size 34 or 36.
Try these on.
ポイッ
Toss Toss
Are you suggesting I would steal these?
Why do you...
How many?
He's not...
Good boy! He looks just like his daddy.
Cow!
Cow!
Cowww!
カウー
Cowww!
カウー
Sorry, he's from up north.
That's just a saying. Hurry up and go change.
I'm not a cowboy, either!
SUPER MARKET
Incredible.
Look at the size of these clothes...
Smile
SALE!
セール中!
XXL
He's completely opened up.
Giggle
Incredible


Huh?
No, I'd be more than happy to.
Wait!
Yes.
Are these all together?
Serious-ly!?
Not that long.
How long are you staying?
What a weird accent!
He's not interested.
If you'll be here Saturday, come to our Independence Day barbecue!
Grandma's pie is the best!
It tastes completely different.
It's easier.
There's a frozen pie right here.
Hand me that apple.
Grandma will bake us a pie.
Mandy!
I see.
Full of love, too.
I'm honored to meet you, Miss. Carol.
You have relatives up north?
He's... my grandfather's brother's wife's... nephew.
Ha ha
This is Stephan. He's a... relative from up north.
Carol!
Hi! Ohhhh. Who do we have here?
The number-one blabbermouth in town!

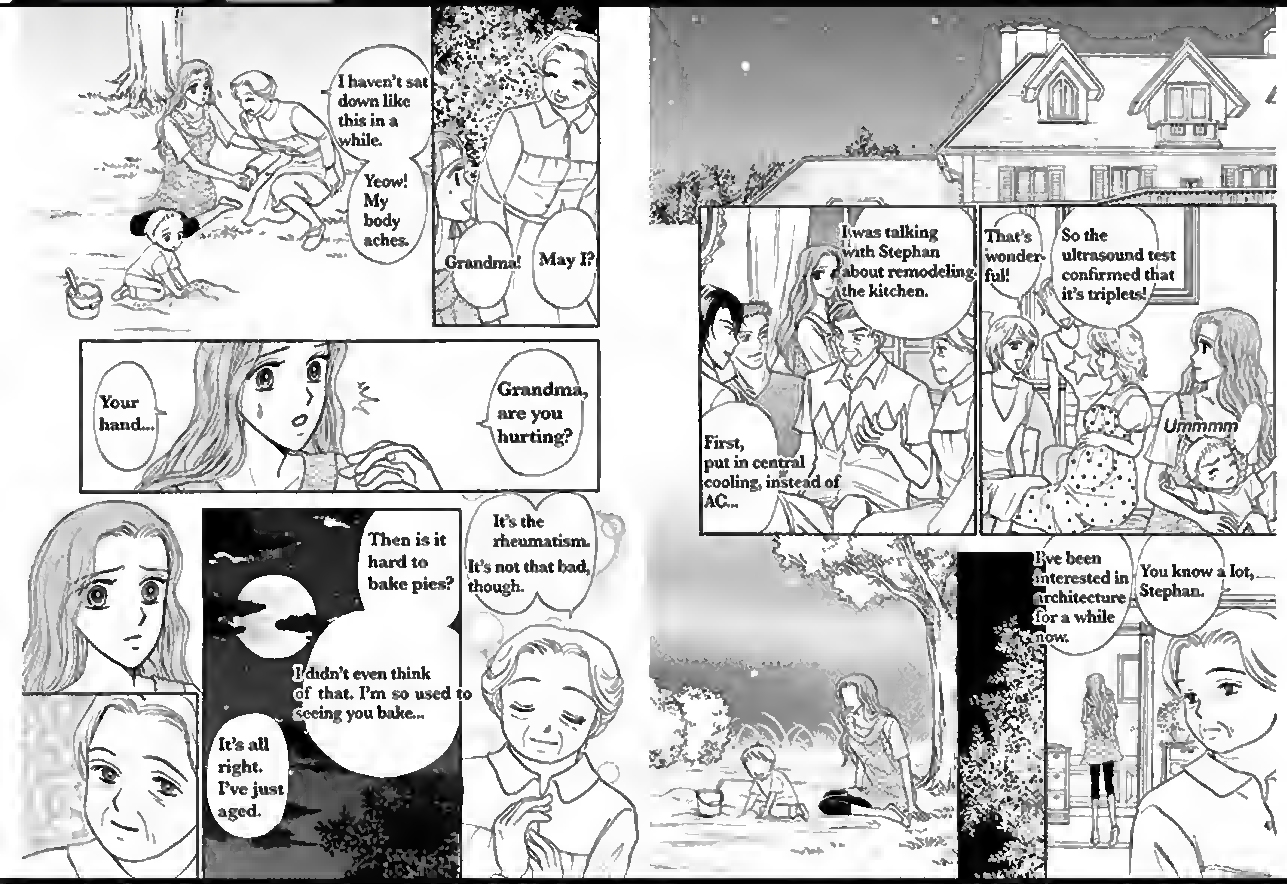

Er...
I thought Texans were supposed to be hospitable.
That's how you treat a guest?
You aren't in Castile!
See you on Saturday!
Anything wrong?
No! Nothing!
But!
Don't worry.
You're our guest, so you shouldn't be paying for food!
I'll pay you for the food later.
No, I can't be. Remember how much Arena suffered...
After falling in love with royalty, like Lawrence.
What's going on? Being with him...
Am I attracted to him?
Why do I feel so anxious?
I know he didn't mean anything by paying.
The least you can do is let me pay for the food.
Normally, I would love to present you with an emerald necklace that would match your eyes.
In my country, it would be rude to visit someone without any gifts.

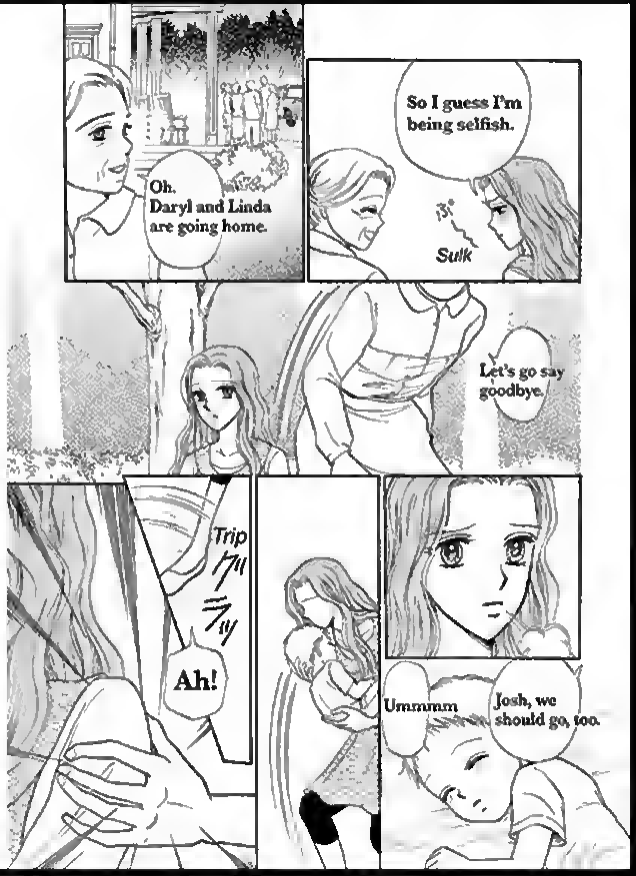

Freeze!
Stewww.
Stewww.
Stewww.
Huh??
Boing Boing
タタタタ
dash
He wants you to hug him.
....
Bend down, spread your arms and just pick him up.
Woof Woof
ワン ワン
Come on, Josh! Run!
Ha ha ha
Woof
キャハハハ
ワン
Oh! You look good.
seems to be breaking down everything that I hold dear..'
If she saw the heir to the throne playing like this?
What would the queen think..

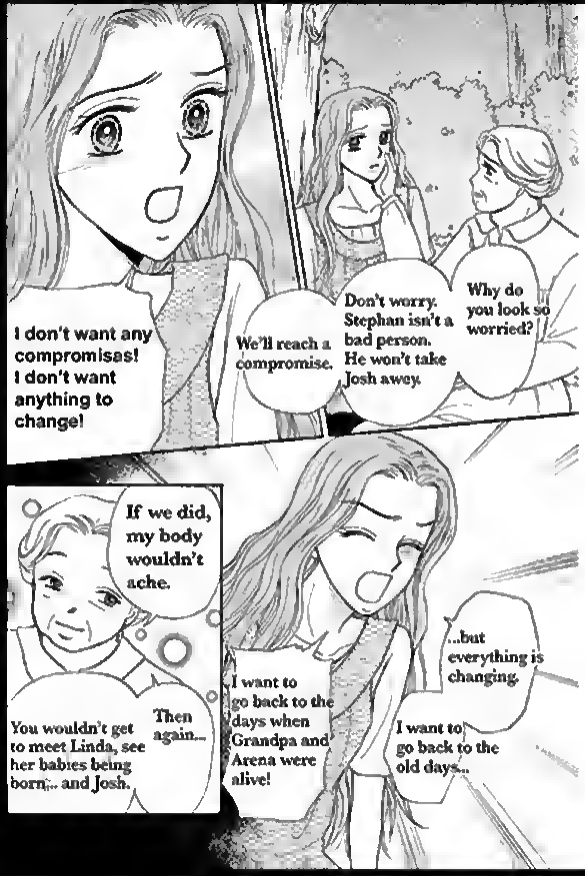
glare
and stubborn?
You don't scare me!
Why is she so strong-minded...
She's so passionate
Also
Brush
This
It makes my heart tremble
Sweet scent...

He has Lawrence's eyes.
Now, with him gone...
Lawrence... He always protected us because he was two years older
and protect this child.
I must take my turn!
Hmph
What're you looking at!
Why...
I'm just trying to determine what is best for Josh!
Come on. Let's go home.
Pull
But I'm still...

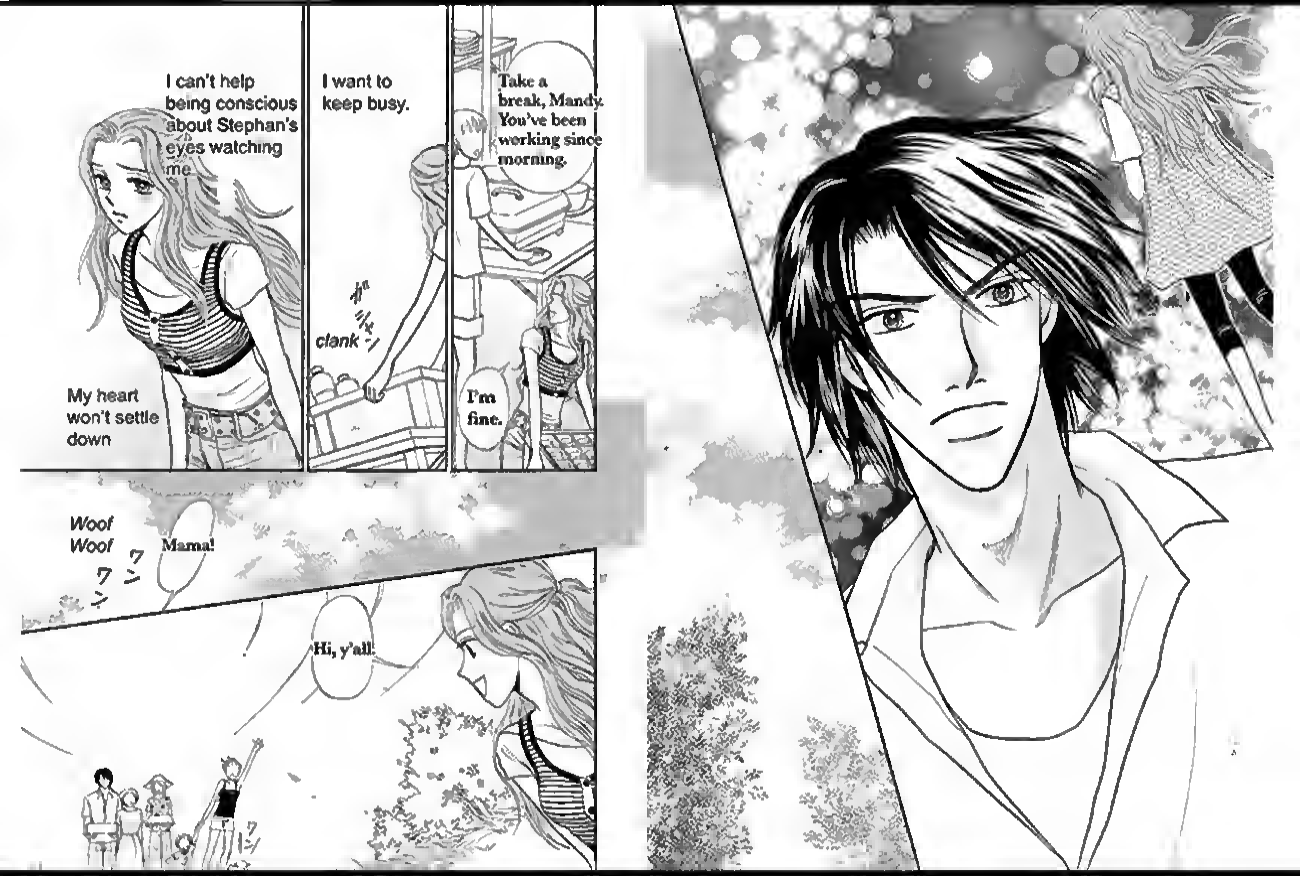
But... it's hopeless...
Stephan is
Mandy is
becoming attractive to me!
GASP
!!
Stare
What am I doing?
Did he try... to kiss me?
Huh...? Did..
I'll go fix us up some sandwiches.
Oh... No. I can't!
I know I mustn't!


I haven't sat down like this in a while.
Yeow! My body aches.
Grandma!
May I?
Your hand...
Grandma, are you hurting?
It's the rheumatism.
It's not that bad, though.
Then is it hard to bake pies?
I didn't even think of that. I'm so used to seeing you bake...
It's all right. I've just aged.
I was talking with Stephan about remodeling the kitchen.
First, put in central cooling, instead of AC...
That's wonderful!
So the ultrasound test confirmed that it's triplets!
Ummmm
I've been interested in architecture for a while now.
You know a lot, Stephan.

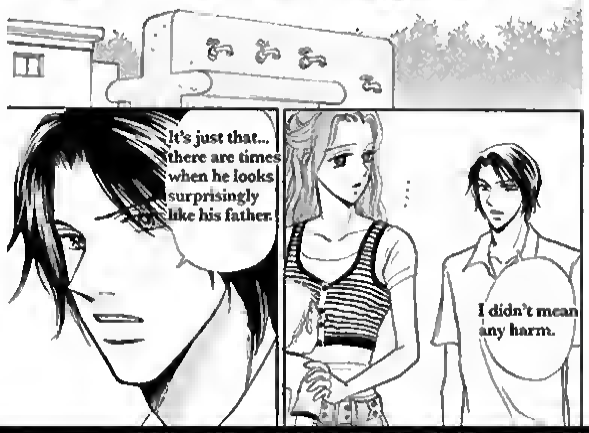

Oh. Daryl and Linda are going home.
So I guess I'm being selfish.
Sulk
Let's go say goodbye.
Trip
Ah!
Ummmm
Josh, we should go, too.

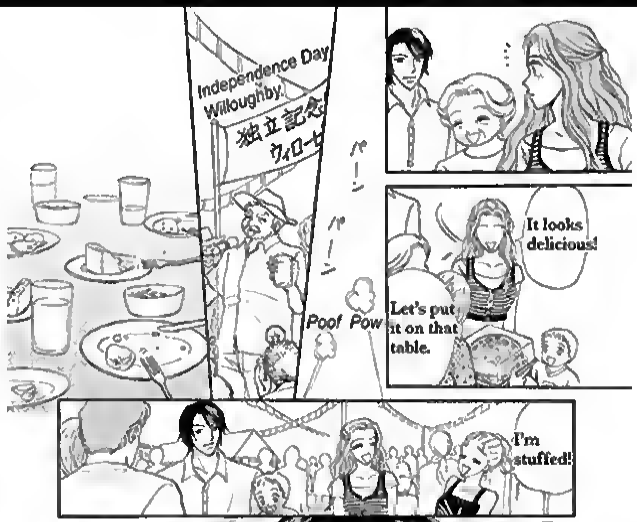

I don't want any compromisas! I don't want anything to change!
We'll reach a compromise.
Don't worry. Stephan isn't a bad person. He won't take Josh awey.
Why do you look so worried?
If we did, my body wouldn't ache.
You wouldn't get to meet Linda, see her babies being born... and Josh.
Then again...
I want to go back to the days when Grandpa and Arena were alive!
...but everything is changing.
I want to go back to the old days...

Mmmm.
Mandy.
I... need to go.
Uh..
Thanks..
My leg went numb.
Hey! Josh, watch out...
Stew!
Jump
Stephan!
Are you all right?
Th... Thank you...

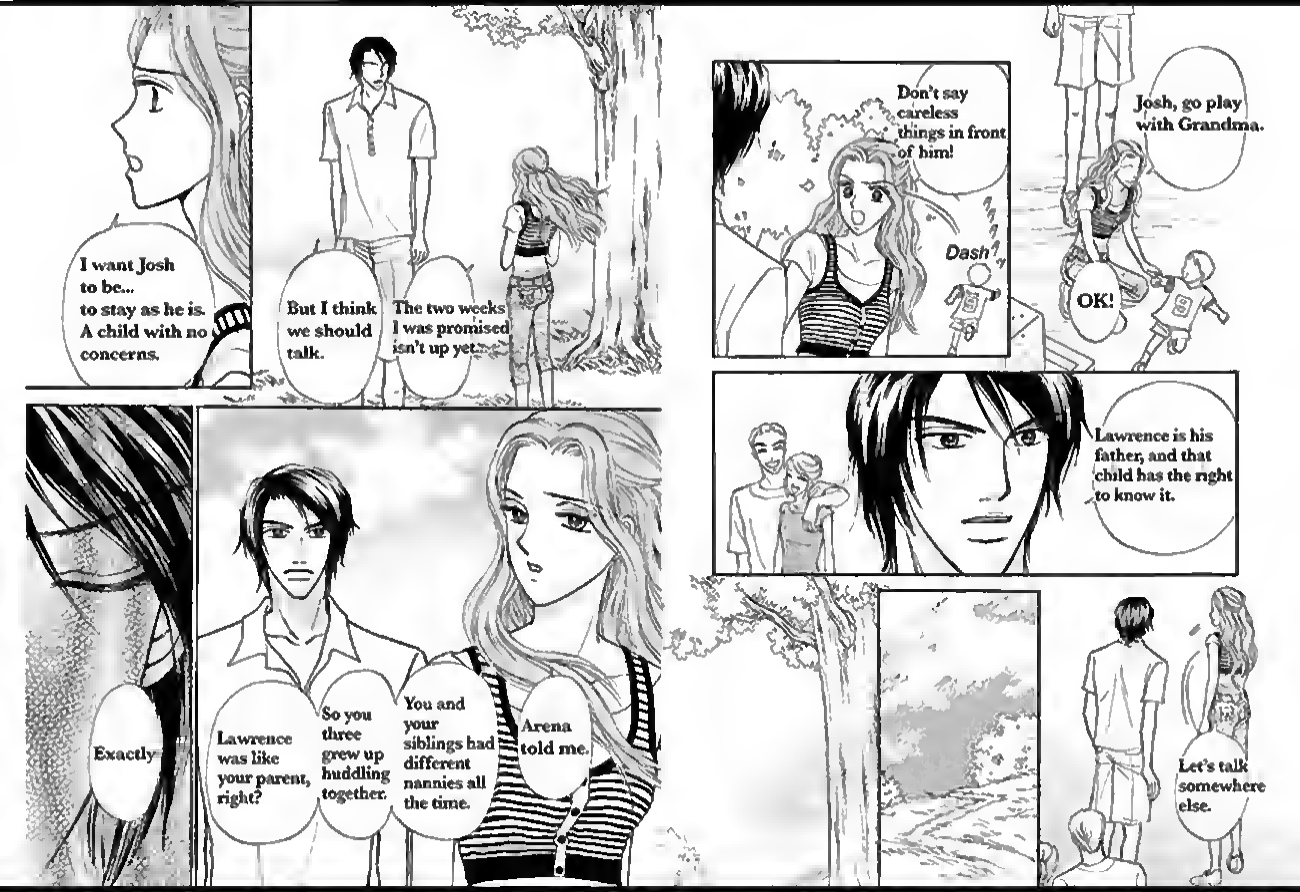

I can't help being conscious about Stephan's eyes watching me.
My heart won't settle down
I want to keep busy.
clank
Take a break, Mandy. You've been working since morning.
I'm fine.
Woof Woof
Mama!
Hi, y'all!

No, I didn't mean it that way...
Josh isn't Lawrence, you know!
Of course not!
Let's go wipe your face.


It's just that... there are times when he looks surprisingly like his father.
I didn't mean any harm.

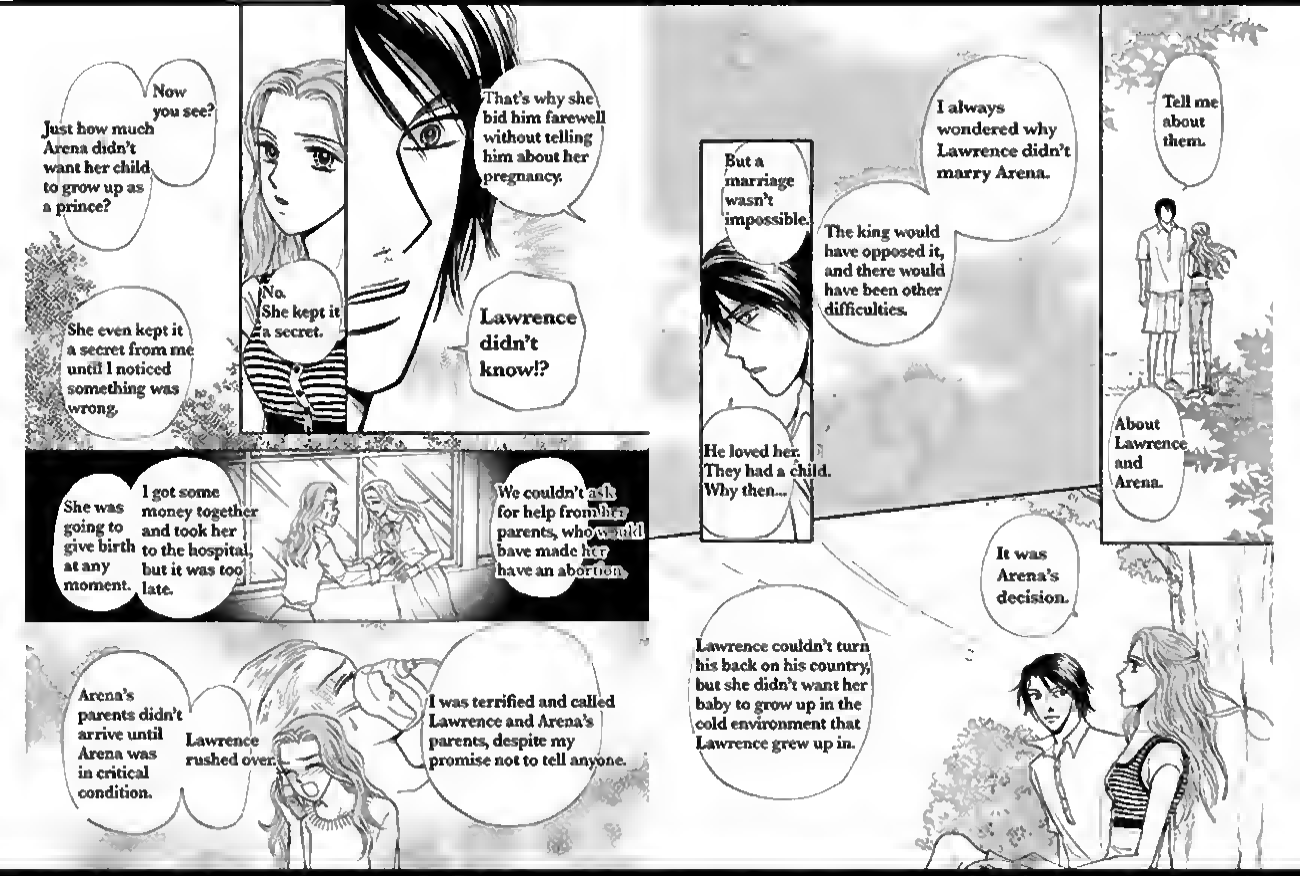

Independence Day Willoughby
独立記念
ウィロー
Poof
Pow
It looks delicious!
Let's put it on that table.
I'm stuffed!

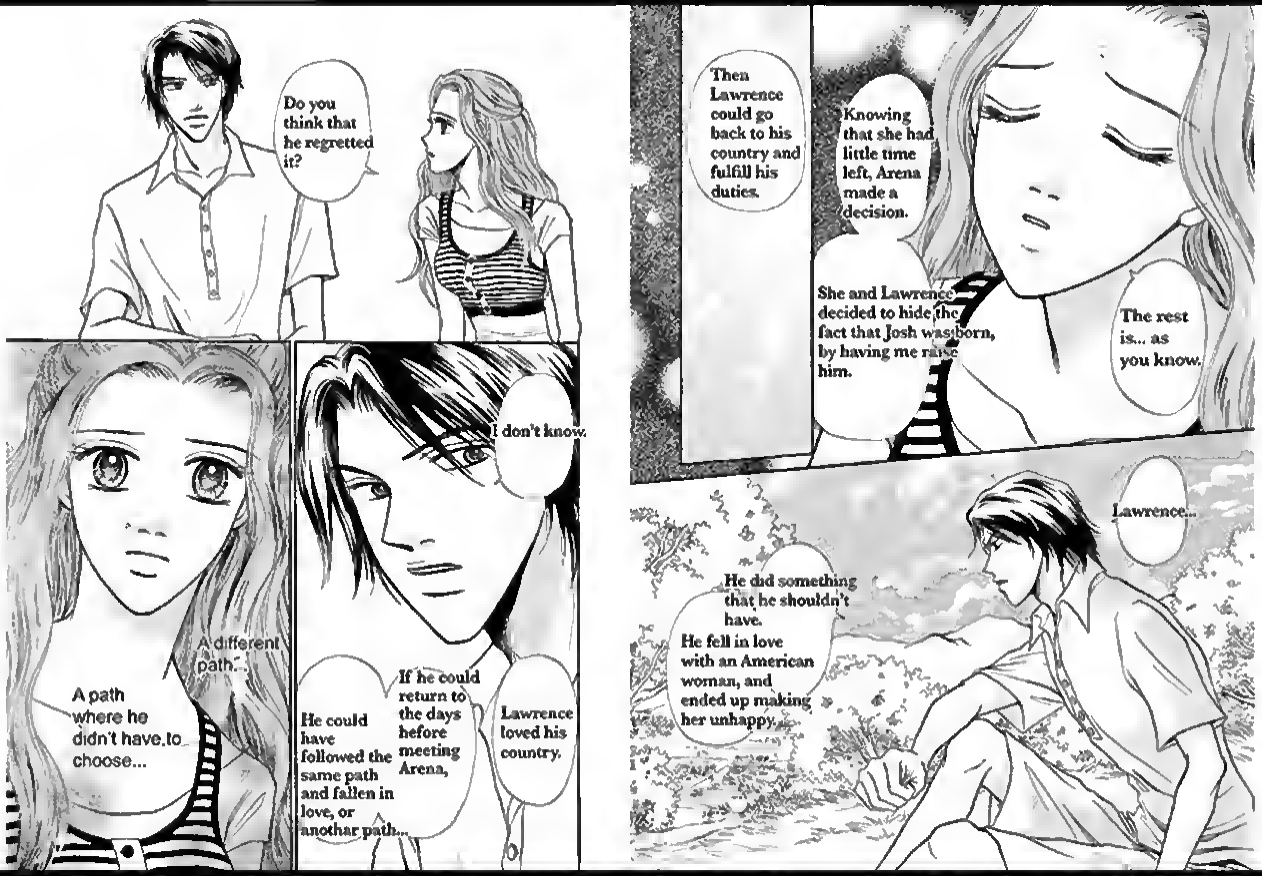
Lawrence never made such a mess eating.
Look at your face, Josh.

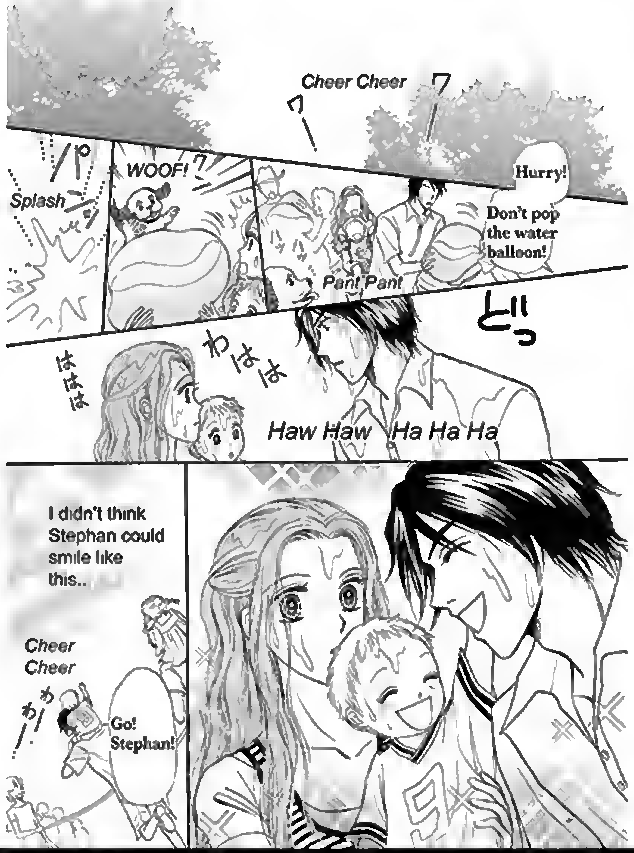

I want Josh to be... to stay as he is. A child with no concerns.
But I think we should talk.
The two weeks I was promised isn't up yet.
Don't say careless things in front of him!
Dash!
Josh, go play with Grandma.
OK!
Lawrence is his father, and that child has the right to know it.
Exactly.
Lawrence was like your parent, right?
So you three grew up huddling together.
You and your siblings had different nannies all the time.
Arena told me.
Let's talk somewhere else.

I'm asking if you feel lonely with your brother gone.
I'm not asking you to pay your respects to the deceased.
You must miss your brother.....
We were only two years apart...
But my sister and I used to go to my brother's room, especially on stormy nights,
and spend the night huddled close to one another.
Show how I feel?
You are free to show how you feel!
In this country, you are a human named Stephan. Not a member of the royal family
No one can measure the degree of the loss which befell our country.
His death... was an impermissible tragedy.

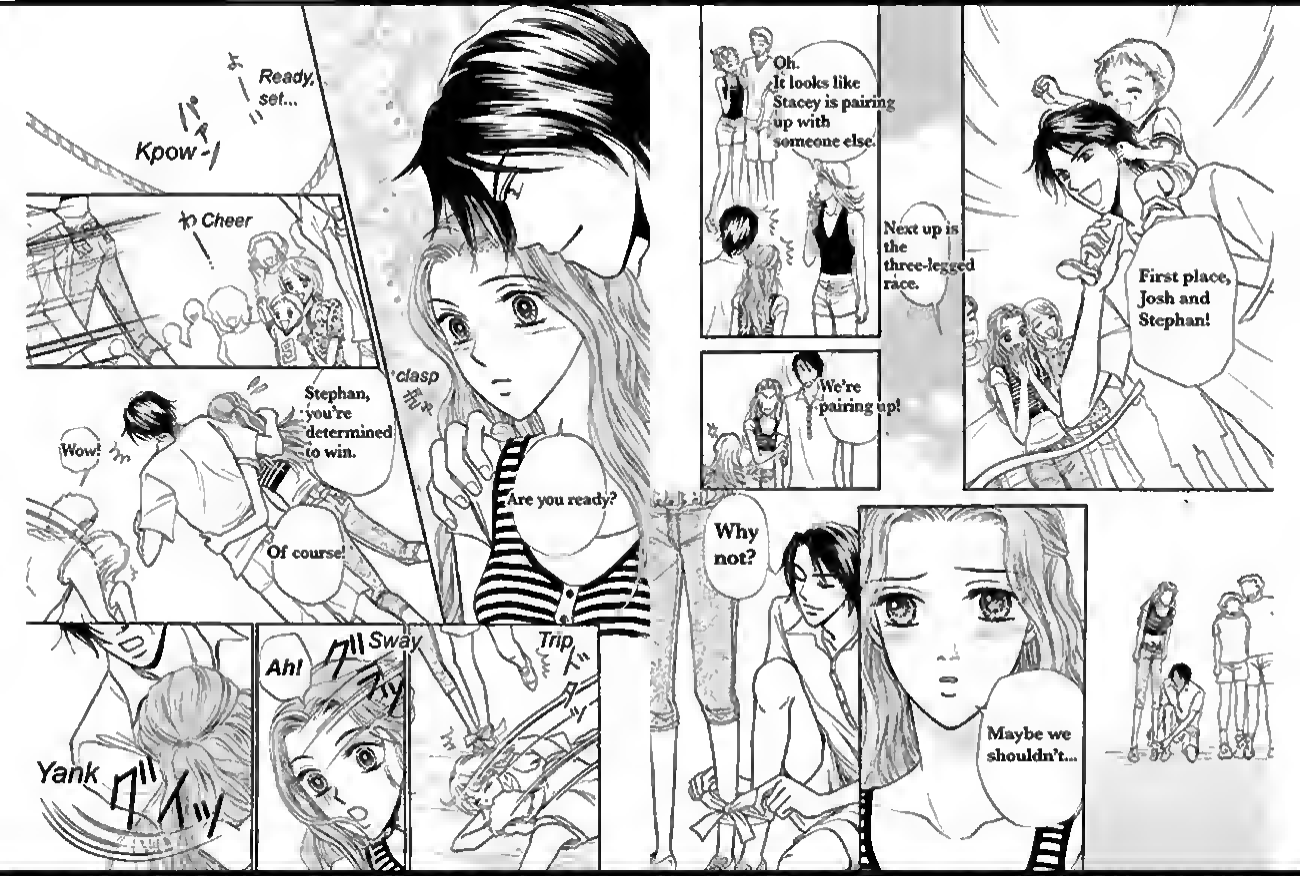
So do I!
Stephan!
Lawrence shouldn't have fallen in love with Arena to begin with.
He knew he had duties that he couldn't escape.
It was painful to lose Arena...
It's so tragic... They were both so in love.
It's a burden, but someone has to bear the responsibility.
It's not a matter of wanting it or not.
You... don't want to take it.
of the royal family.
I was trained...
To always stand firm as a member...
More than you can imagine.
I... miss him very much.


Tell me about them.
About Lawrence and Arena.
I always wondered why Lawrence didn't marry Arena.
But a marriage wasn't impossible.
The king would have opposed it, and there would have been other difficulties.
He loved her. They had a child. Why then...
It was Arena's decision.
Lawrence couldn't turn his back on his country, but she didn't want her baby to grow up in the cold environment that Lawrence grew up in.
That's why she bid him farewell without telling him about her pregnancy.
Lawrence didn't know!?
No. She kept it a secret.
Now you see? Just how much Arena didn't want her child to grow up as a prince?
She even kept it a secret from me until I noticed something was wrong.
She was going to give birth at any moment.
I got some money together and took her to the hospital, but it was too late.
We couldn't ask for help from her parents, who would have made her have an abortion.
Arena's parents didn't arrive until Arena was in critical condition.
Lawrence rushed over.
I was terrified and called Lawrence and Arena's parents, despite my promise not to tell anyone.


Do you think that he regretted it?
I don't know.
Lawrence loved his country.
If he could return to the days before meeting Arena,
He could have followed the same path and fallen in love, or another path...
A different path...
A path where he didn't have to choose...
Then Lawrence could go back to his country and fulfill his duties.
Knowing that she had little time left, Arena made a decision.
She and Lawrence decided to hide the fact that Josh was born, by having me raise him.
The rest is... as you know.
Lawrence...
He did something that he shouldn't have.
He fell in love with an American woman, and ended up making her unhappy...


Cheer Cheer
Splash
WOOF!
Hurry!
Don't pop the water balloon!
Pant Pant
Haw Haw Ha Ha Ha
I didn't think Stephan could smile like this..
Cheer Cheer
Go! Stephan!

I finally found you!
Carol!
...That didn't end in tragedy.
Have you decided on who to pair up with for the three-legged race, Stephan?
The balloon relay is going to start anytime now.
Aww
Stephan is pairing up with Stacey!
Let's be a pair!

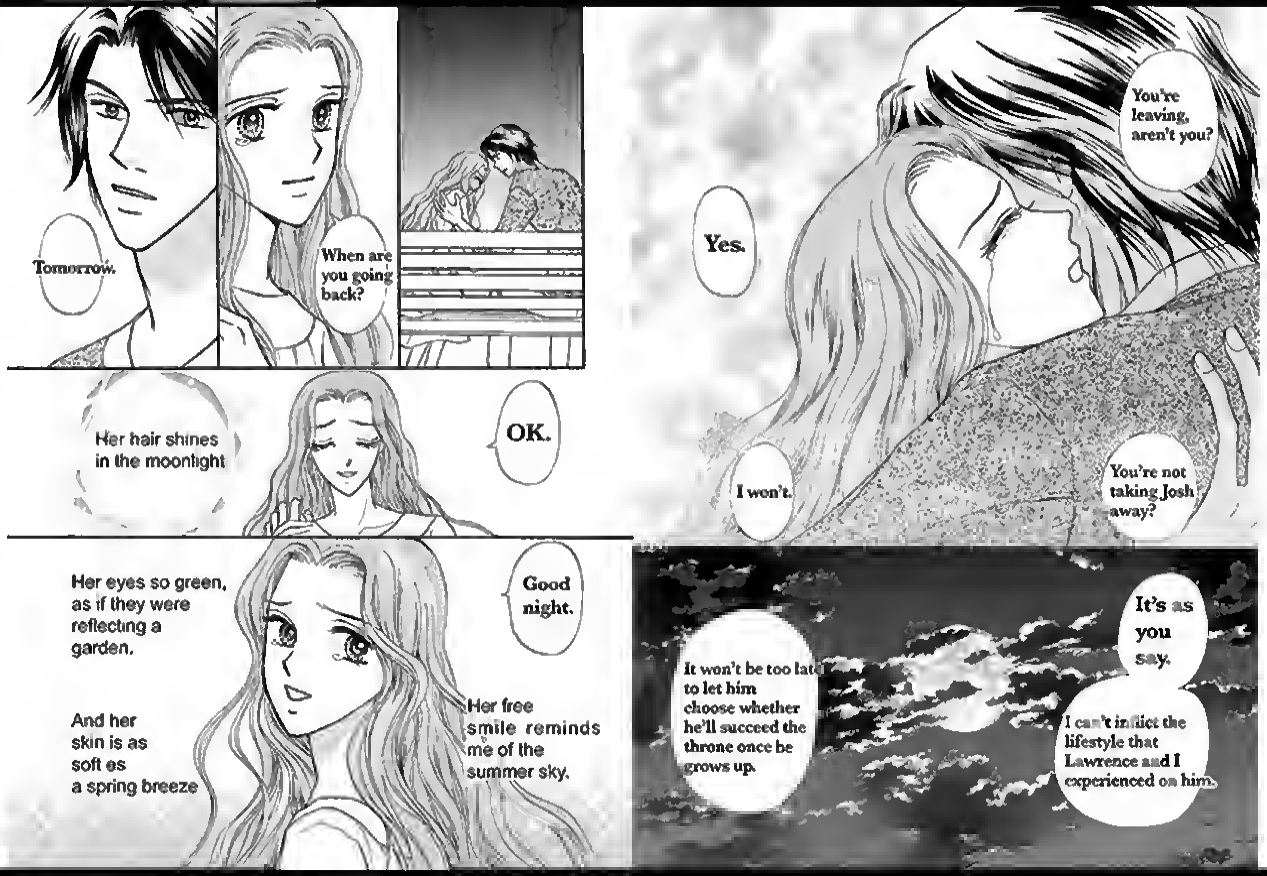

Ready, set...
Kpow-!
Cheer
Stephan, you're determined to win.
Wow!
Of course!
clasp
Are you ready?
Yank
Ah!
Sway
Trip
Oh. It looks like Stacey is pairing up with someone else.
Next up is the three-legged race.
We're pairing up!
First place, Josh and Stephan!
Why not?
Maybe we shouldn't...

All right, I'll get up.
I guess it can't be helped.
We have to get up! They'll think we're injured.
I can't get it to come loose.
I already got it.
Sigh
That I don't think I can face everyone quite so soon.
I'm going for a little walk. I was so close to you...
Chuckle
Y... You're right! I'll go back first!
I had fun. Did you?
Cheer
We lost.
Yes, I had... fun.
Blush

Joshua!
Where are you, Joshua?
Josh!!
Cough Cough
ゴホ ゴホ
SPLASH!!!
Stephan?
Josh! Don't go over there!
Where's Josh?
Playing with Prince over there.
Stephan... Teasing me!
SPLASH!
Josh!!
Splash!
Splash Splash
バシャ バシャ
Woof Woof
ワン ワン

Josh.
うあぁぁん
He's all right now.
COUGH
ホッ
Josh, wake up
Josh!
ふぅ
Breathe
WAAAAA!
Thank God.
WAAAH
あぁぁん
Thank you. You just saved our Josh's life!
...Our Josh...
Mandy.

You can't sleep, either?
No.
I was so worried about Josh.
When I imagine something happening to that child, I feel like I'm losing my mind.
You love him.
I do.
Arena...
Now I can understand why you couldn't give Lawrence up,
despite knowing that it could never be.


Tomorrow.
When are you going back?
Her hair shines in the moonlight
OK.
You're leaving, aren't you?
Yes.
I won't.
You're not taking Josh away?
Her eyes so green, as if they were reflecting a garden.
Good night.
Her free smile reminds me of the summer sky.
And her skin is as soft as a spring breeze
It won't be too late to let him choose whether he'll succeed the throne once he grows up.
It's as you say.
I can't inflict the lifestyle that Lawrence and I experienced on him.

Have fallen in love with her...
Clack
カタ
If I don't go now...
I must go...
I will never be able to go.
I...
just like the land of Texas
Mandy - Passionate stubborn and kind

A reporter?
Maybe we're in the newspaper.
That reminds me of the news reporter from Dallas I saw at yesterday's party.
Oh. This might be bad.
Just one. It's the one who comes every year, but we've never made it to the...
Willoughby Barbecue Party
ウィロービーのバーベキューパーティー
Father Saves Drowning Son's Life
折よく訪れていた父親
おぼれかけた息子を救う!
I must bid you all farewell.
Regrettably...
I've already finished packing.
Fair enough.
But why are you in such a hurry?
What about Josh?
It's best for him to stay here.
Once he grows older, I hope to give him a chance to visit my country.
OK. Let's have breakfast.

Screech
He's my child!!!
I heard that you are the child's father.
I don't have anything to add to what is already written in the newspaper.
Slam
TV
TV station!?
banging on door
Calm down. No one is going to care about...
Mandy?
Oh, God..
That rumor is going to spread again.
Clack
Hello?
I'm from the Wil-lough-by News.
Prince Stephan!
SLAM
The same thing happened when I brought back a child without a husband.
Rabble
Rabble
No one from the media came, but I was the hot topic for gossip.
I have some questions about yesterday's rescue.
Me, too.
I'll go.

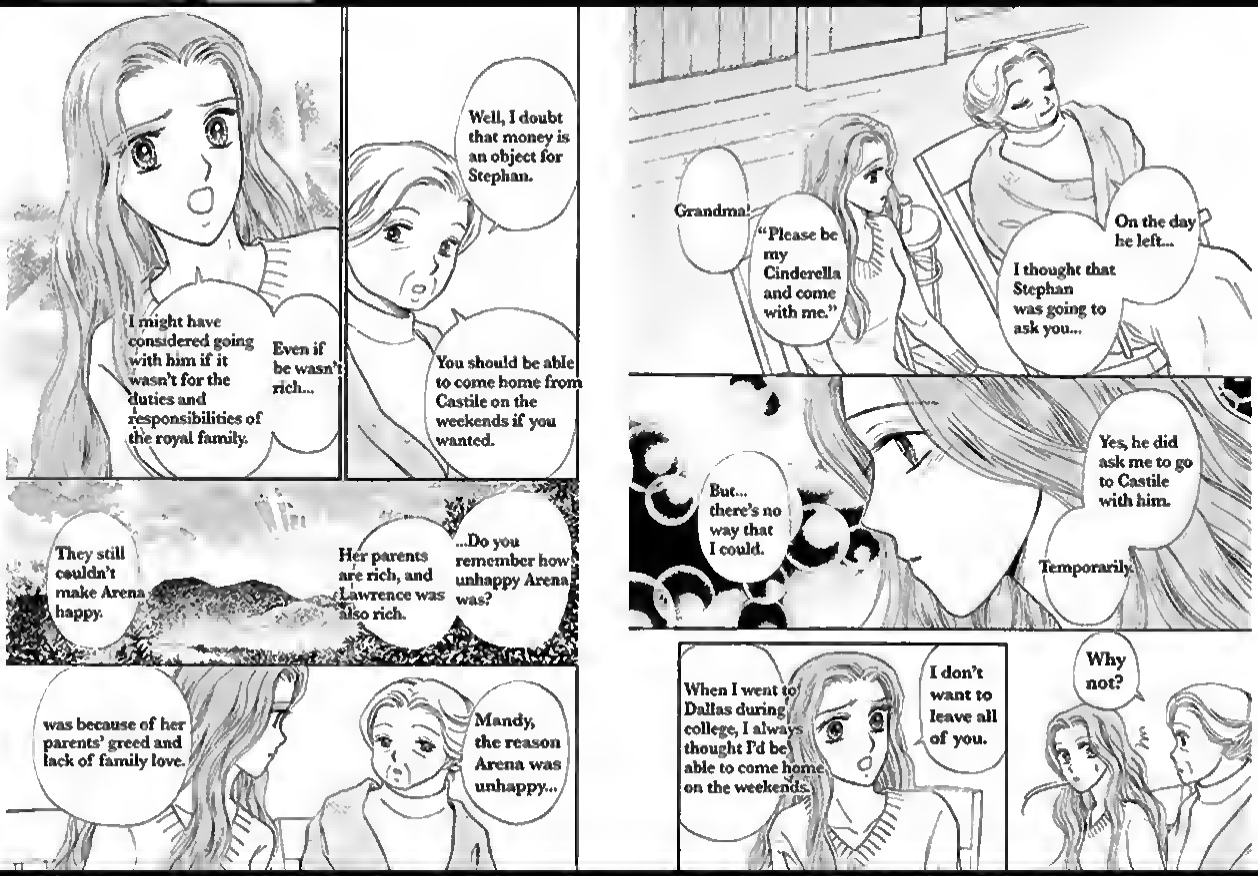
What is the meaning of that photo?
Mandy?
Mrs Taggart!
That child is a prince!!
You told them our grandson is your son!?
Grrr
We're going to get him back even if it takes a lawsuit!
You and your family of dirt farmers have no business being anywhere near him!
Please answer.
Of where!?
Huh!? A prince???
Is it true that you came to this country to bring home an illegitimate child!?
Knock Knock,
I seem to have brought chaos into your daily life.
I'm sorry, Mandy.
Rrrring
Clink
Hello?

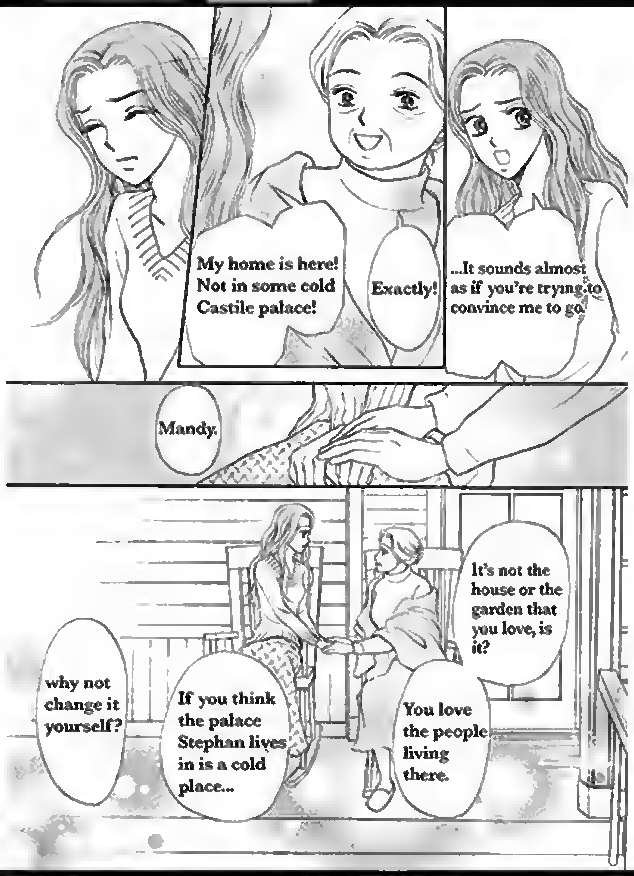
I thought everything would go smoothly when I came here.
I never thought it would end up like this.
Stephan!
And I have fallen in love with you.
irreplaceable to me.
But your family has become
Jump
I've heard enough!
If you dare sue the Crawfords
Or make even one more disparaging remark...
My family will take action.
If I will it, driving you completely out of the social track...
KCHANG!
would be a five-minute task!!

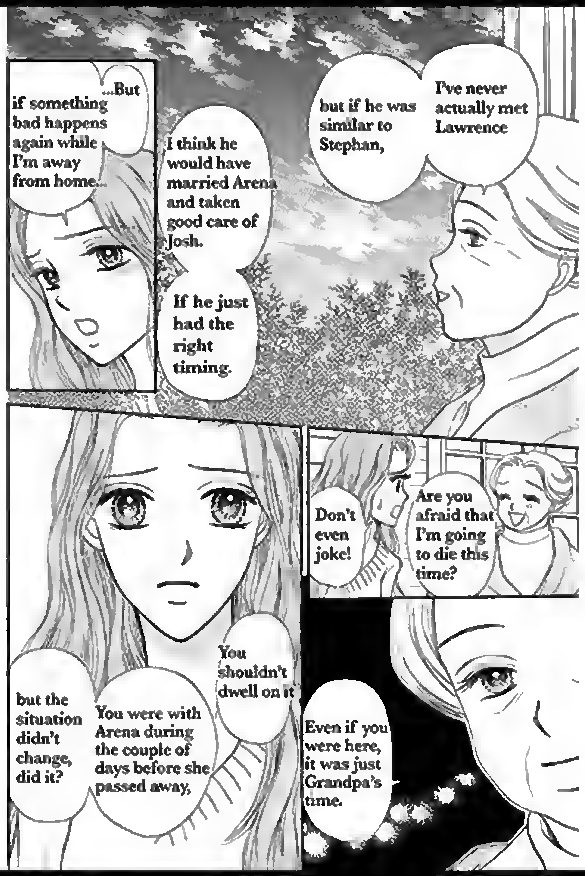
This is my home.
But...
I couldn't be with my grandfather when he died because I was away.
What if something happens to Grandma while I'm away again? Or to my parents?
Love doesn't change my situation.
I can't go to Castile.
Mama!
I can't go...
Mandy, please bring Josh and come with me to Castile.
It will only be until everything calms down.
I love you, too.

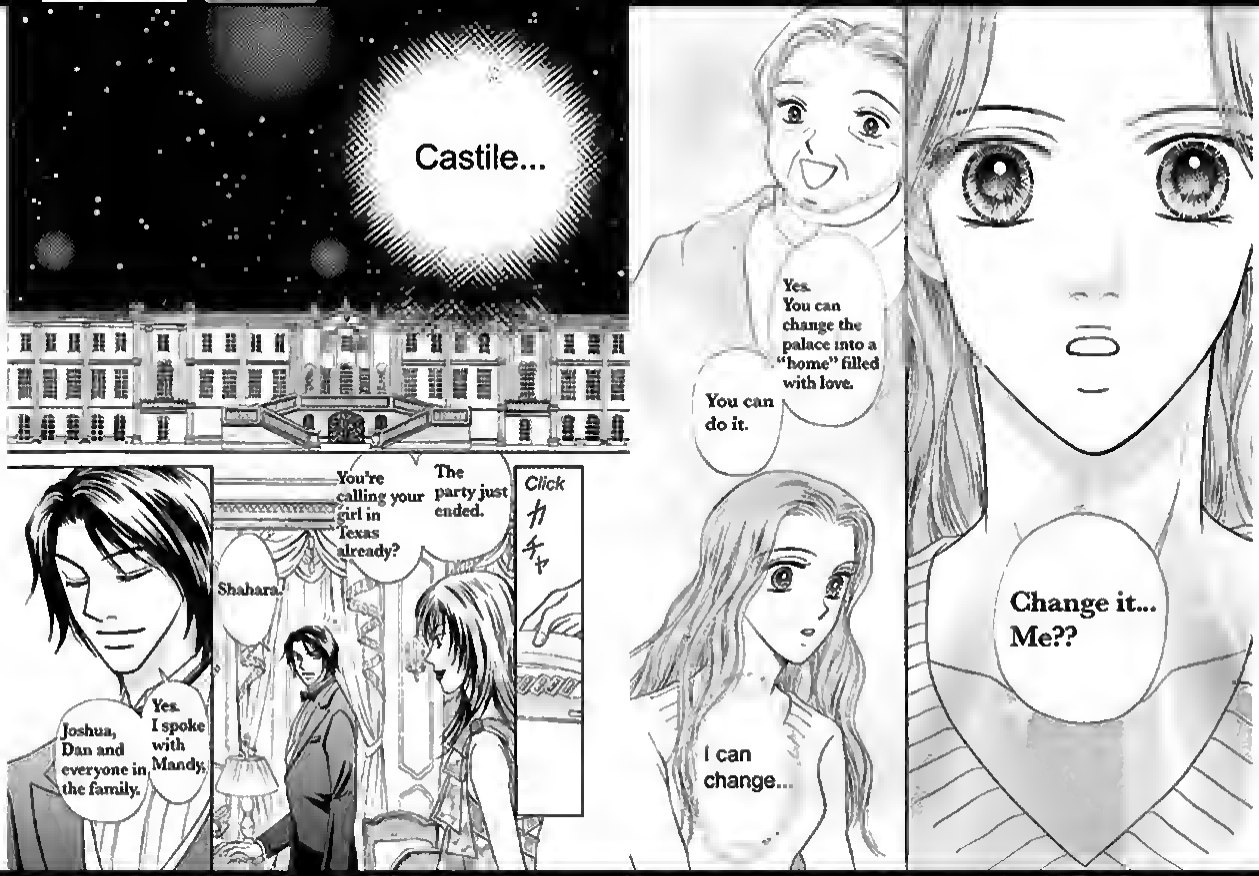
ドン
Bang Bang
Stephan!
カチャ
Click
But stop bothering this family.
Come to my hotel and I'll tell you the whole story.
Prince Stephan! Please answer our questions!
Hug
Josh!
Mama.
Stephan...?
I understand.
Leave the media to me. You don't need to worry about anything.

OBVIOUS...
You thought that I was Stephan.
Oh... Grandma.
Thanks to the long weekly phone calls with him.
Though, maybe you feel him closer...
It's been three months since he left.
I'm glad to return to my normal life.
The reporters finally stopped bothering us.
...Not completely, but...
I'm sure Stephan is missing you, too.
I can tell. You're my granddaughter.
Why do you ask?
Don't you still miss Stephan?
Nothing stays the same forever.
CLANK
Jump
Stephan!


I might have considered going with him if it wasn't for the duties and responsibilities of the royal family.
Even if he wasn't rich...
Well, I doubt that money is an object for Stephan.
You should be able to come home from Castile on the weekends if you wanted.
Grandma!
"Please be my Cinderella and come with me."
On the day he left...
I thought that Stephan was going to ask you...
But... there's no way that I could.
Yes, he did ask me to go to Castile with him.
Temporarily.
When I went to Dallas during college, I always thought I'd be able to come home on the weekends.
I don't want to leave all of you.
Why not?
They still couldn't make Arena happy.
Her parents are rich, and Lawrence was also rich.
...Do you remember how unhappy Arena was?
was because of her parents' greed and lack of family love.
Mandy, the reason Arena was unhappy...


My home is here! Not in some cold Castile palace!
Exactly!
...It sounds almost as if you're trying to convince me to go.
Mandy.
why not change it yourself?
If you think the palace Stephan lives in is a cold place...
You love the people living there.
It's not the house or the garden that you love, is it?


...But if something bad happens again while I'm away from home...
I think he would have married Arena and taken good care of Josh.
If he just had the right timing.
but if he was similar to Stephan,
I've never actually met Lawrence
but the situation didn't change, did it?
You were with Arena during the couple of days before she passed away.
You shouldn't dwell on it
Even if you were here, it was just Grandpa's time.
Don't even joke!
Are you afraid that I'm going to die this time?


Castile...
Yes. You can change the palace into a "home" filled with love.
You can do it.
Change it... Me??
I can change...
Click
The party just ended.
You're calling your girl in Texas already?
Shahara.
Yes. I spoke with Mandy.
Joshua, Dan and everyone in the family.

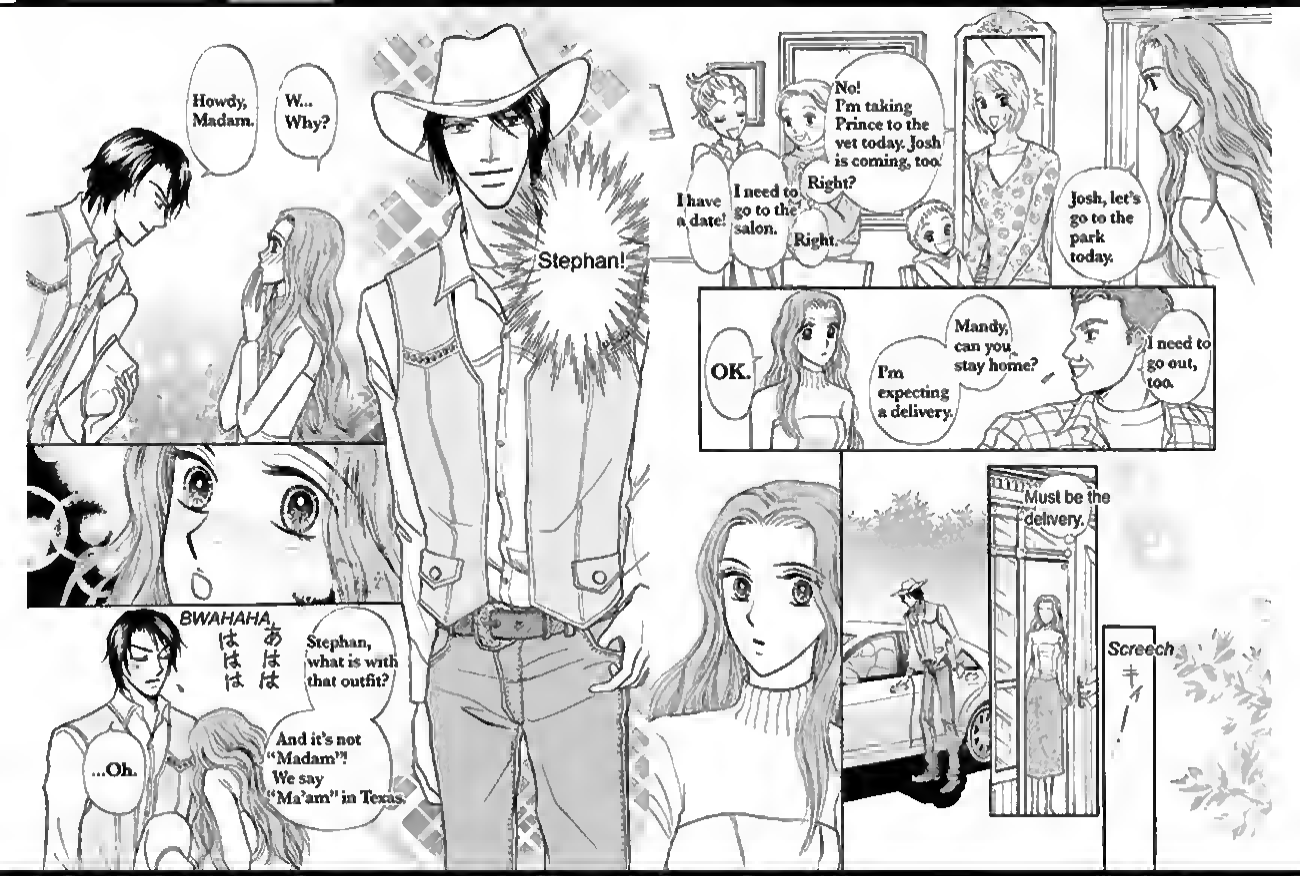
?
I will be brief.
I wanted to ask you if I can go to Texas again...
Later. I don't recall giving you permission to enter.
Were you crying?
I can't but help feel tormented.
Remembering my oldest son.

You could go and tell her how you feel.
I know. I can't seem to focus and I don't know what to do with myself.
You're all about Texas since you've come home.

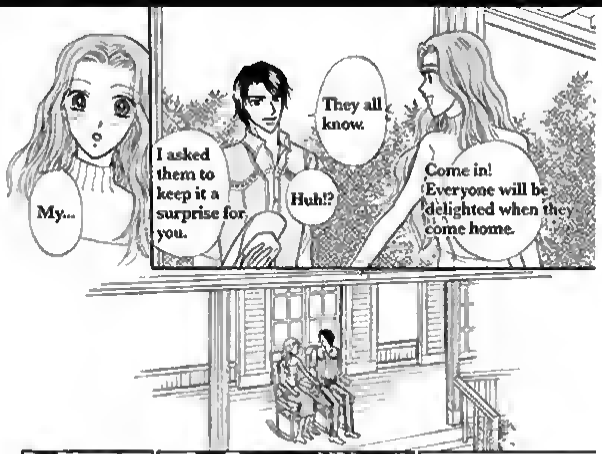
Isn't that why I'm capable of supporting your rule of this country?
Oh?
You can be a little too direct sometimes.

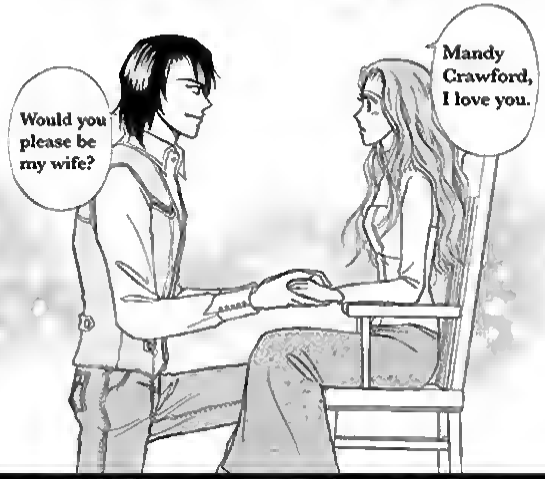
I would like to ask for your advice.
Father.

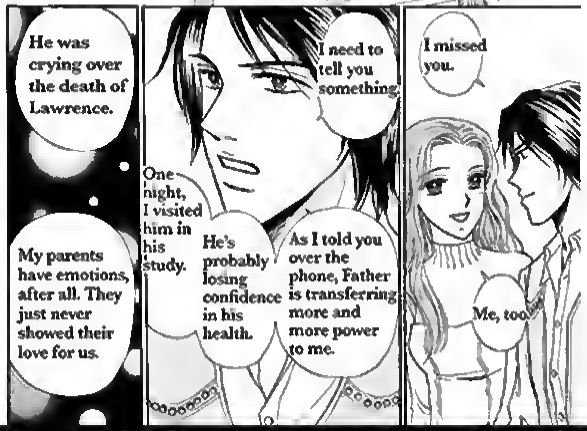
Have we loved you?
Have you and mother ever loved Lawrence, Shahara and myself for even a moment?
Of course we love you. Even as I speak,
I love you, my son.
Smile
I did...
You trained us never to show our emotions.
Did you think that I had no emotions?
You're grieving Lawrence's death?
Ruling a country requires logical thinking, and that leaves no room for emotion.
However, it's easier said than done.
True. A monarch must be emotionally detached.


Howdy, Madam.
W... Why?
Stephan!
BWAHAHA, はあはは
Stephan, what is with that outfit?
...Oh.
And it's not "Madam"! We say "Ma'am" in Texas.
I have a date!
I need to go to the salon.
Right.
No! I'm taking Prince to the vet today. Josh is coming, too.
Right?
Josh, let's go to the park today.
OK.
I'm expecting a delivery.
Mandy, can you stay home?
I need to go out, too.
Must be the delivery.
Screech
キィ!

Swish
Shahara will happily take over for Father.
But...
I don't plan on becoming king.
I told both them and my sister...
What!?
It's a foolish act...
I don't want to repeat my parents' mistakes.


My...
I asked them to keep it a surprise for you.
They all know.
Huh!?
Come in! Everyone will be delighted when they come home.


Would you please be my wife?
Mandy Crawford, I love you.


He was crying over the death of Lawrence.
My parents have emotions, after all. They just never showed their love for us.
One night, I visited him in his study.
He's probably losing confidence in his health.
I need to tell you something.
As I told you over the phone, Father is transferring more and more power to me.
I missed you.
Me, too.

You don't have to live here.
Let's go to Castile.
But...
Really. I love Texas and my home.
Nothing would make me happier, but...
Let's go to Castile.
I'll always be home.
Yes.
As long as I'm with you...
I already have your father's approval.
Yes. Yes! I'll marry you!
Stephan!
Stephan!
I expect our bedroom will be as hot as the summer throughout the year.
We'll need to have air conditioning installed if I'm to live here.

We will always be at home.
As long as there is love in our hearts...
Even if it's a frozen northern country.
The Prince's Heir-The End

Shojo Manhwa Scans

The Prince's Heir

Sally Carleen

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Presents

Prince no Koi

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Editor: Meriem